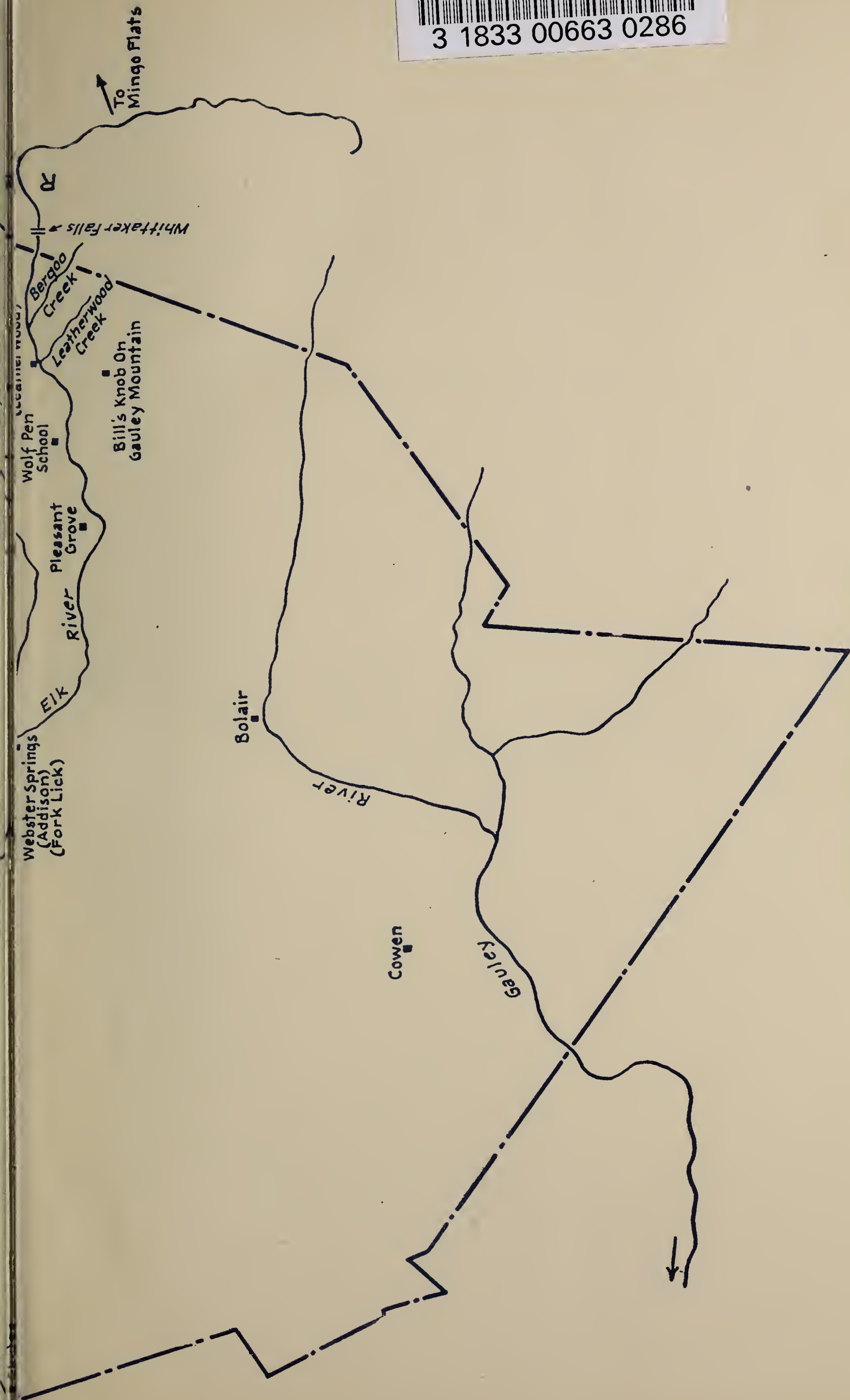


THE
CHAPMAN FAMILY



3 1833 00663 0286



Webster County, central West Virginia.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
A STUDY IN THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF
CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA

By

BERLIN B. CHAPMAN, PH. D.

Sometime Assistant Superintendent, Webster County
Schools; sometime Coach of Debate in Fairmont
State Teachers College

Foreword by

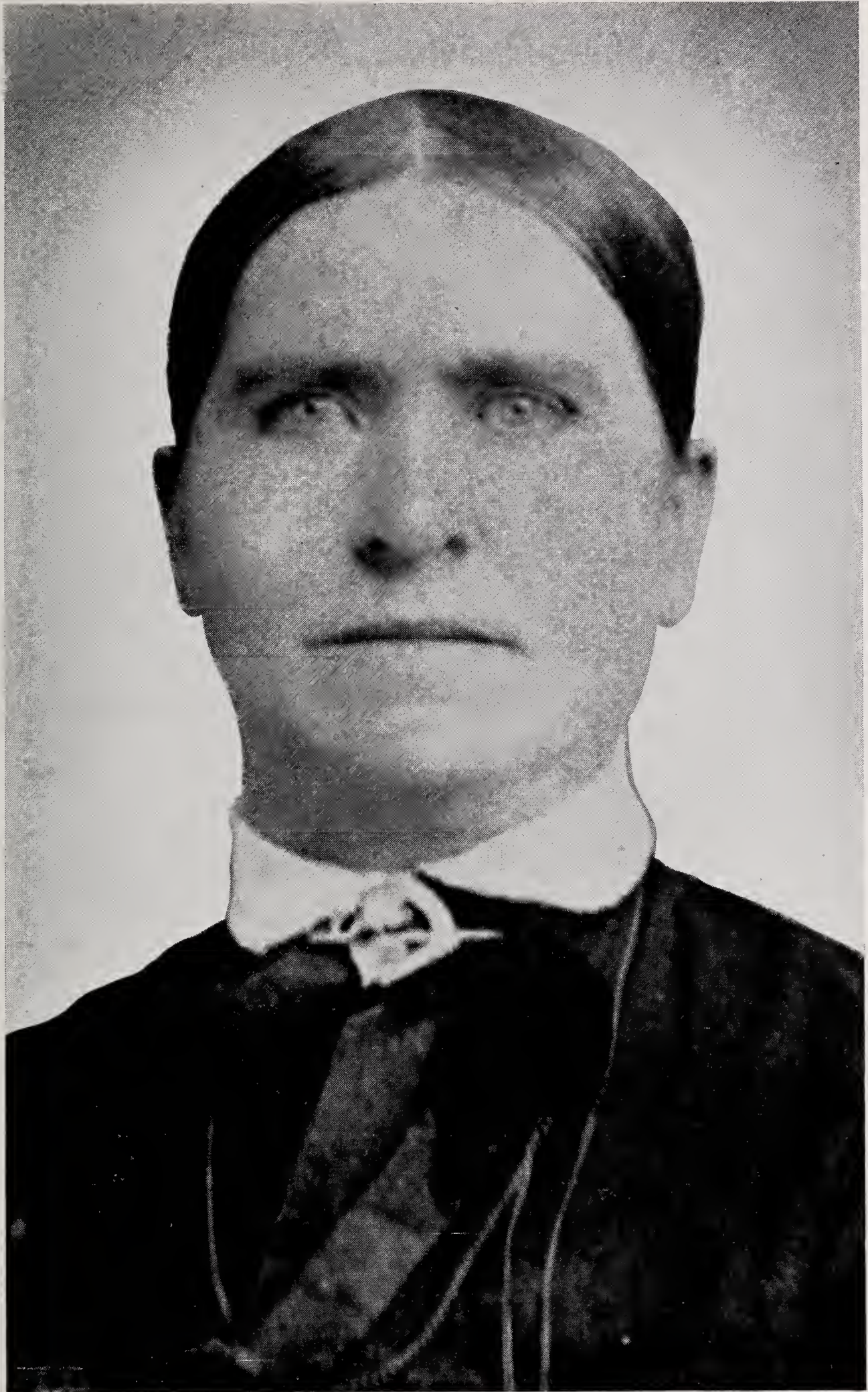
BEVERLY E. COGAR

Sometime Teacher, Webster County Schools
Battalion Chief, Los Angeles Fire Department

Copyright 1942
BERLIN B. CHAPMAN

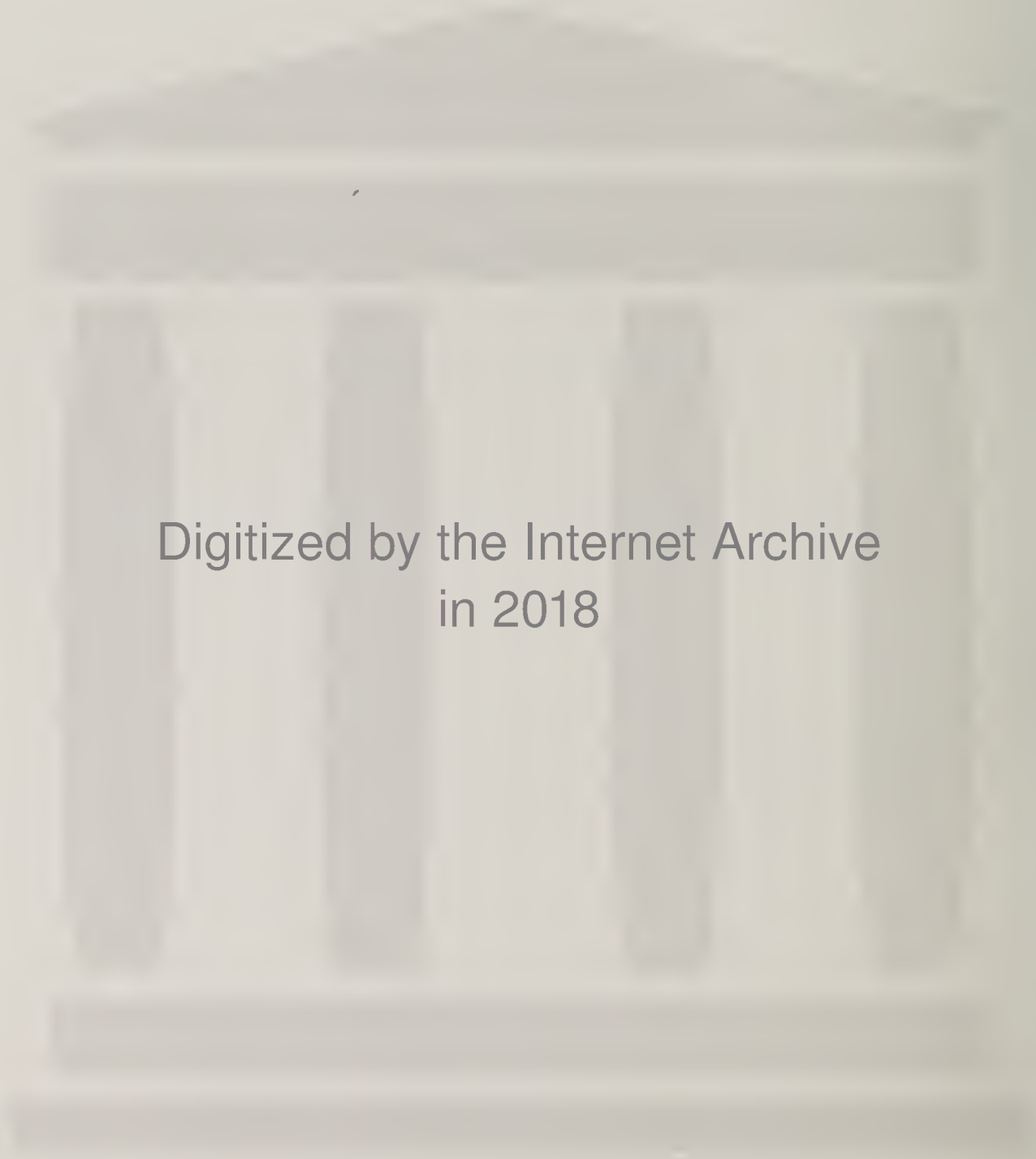
Published by
MID-WEST PRINTING COMPANY
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

1835155



NANCY HAMRICK GREGORY, wife of William Francis Marion Chapman. Their descendants, now living, number more than 365 persons.

DEDICATED
TO THE
GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN
OF
WILLIAM FRANCIS MARION CHAPMAN
AND
NANCY GREGORY CHAPMAN
NOW NUMBERING MORE THAN 165 PERSONS



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018

<https://archive.org/details/chapmanfamilystu00chap>

FOREWORD

This history begins with the life of a typical pioneer, William Francis Marion Chapman, born in what is now Webster County on June 3, 1836. He chose to live a Christian life and to be a respected citizen. His life was an open book filled with devotion to his family and with honest dealing toward his fellow men. When the time came for him to say good-bye, he bequeathed to his children an influence that guided each of them along the path of integrity to a place of respect in society. This influence is all the more apparent by the fact that not one of them committed any act that would cast a reflection upon his good name.

No less may be said of his faithful, loving companion through life—Nancy (Gregory) Chapman—who shared his joys and sorrows and uncomplainingly administered motherly care and affection upon a large family.

This publication means something to the descendants of that fine old pioneer, and fulfills a long felt want. However valuable it may be as a case study in the social development of central West Virginia, it is to us of the Chapman family a history, contributing to the knowledge and pleasure of our circle, large and widely scattered. By blood relationship more than 365 persons, now living, comprise the circle.

This study affords the reader an opportunity of living, in retrospect, the experiences and hardships during the turbulent years of the Civil War, endured by that hardy mountaineer of humble birth trying to support and protect his family; furthermore, it will take the reader back to forgotten days among the West Virginia hills and bring to mind again names and faces of those he knew in childhood, many of whom have now departed from this life. After you have read it you will want to keep it, re-read it and hand it down to posterity.

The author—Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Associate Professor of History in the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College—is a graduate of West Virginia University, Harvard University, and the University of Wisconsin, from which institutions he won the A.B., A.M. and Ph. D. degrees respectively,

FOREWORD

meanwhile performing other work for funds necessary to continue his studies. This kind of determined will, typically Chapman, will not be denied and is manifest in the quality of research necessary to write this history. That none is so well fitted to make this contribution to the family, is evidenced by the delicate way he has narrated personal incidents and the perseverance with which he has carried the work through in minute detail to the final conclusion.

Truly the author has done something justly deserving, of the appreciation his work merits, in giving us this opportunity to know more about our ancestry.

Dr. Chapman, we thank you.

BEVERLY E. COGAR

Los Angeles,
California

PREFACE

For a century and a half people of the white race have lived on the waters of the upper Elk, in a region now known as central West Virginia. Here has occurred slow and continuous evolution of society through the stages of the hunter, farmer, lumberman, and miner. The evolution is so complete that new generations, fishing in the same streams and crossing the same mountains, are strangers to the social environment of the earlier occupants.

This is a case study of a family whose members may be found in all the stages of development from the pioneers' path along Elk River, to the present attainment. The purpose of the study is twofold. First, to picture with clearness of detail the evolution of a family in central West Virginia, as it experienced the various stages of change. To know well the course of one family, is to be familiar with the general trend of scores of families of the same region. The Chapmans were not a peculiar people. On that fact rests the contribution of this book to the social history of central West Virginia. One could with as much propriety have begun with the life of Colonel Isaac Gregory, Benjamin Hamrick, or with one of the other pioneers whose posterity increased.

The second purpose of the study is to present to the Chapman family the true story of their forebears, a story of vigor, and one that must be written to be preserved. Self-reliance in the family resulted in an attitude of mild indifference toward their ancestry. They have believed rather strongly in the doctrine of self-determination. Nor have they forgot that he who gloats on successes of his forebears, thereby concedes that the glory belongs to them, not to him. On the other hand the family recognizes truth in words of Lord Macaulay: "A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors, will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."

I have been keenly aware of the assumption among laity, and the suspicion among historians, that any study involving one's own family is permeated with purposes other than those

PREFACE

of presenting a fair and impartial picture. I have made a sincere, and I believe successful, effort to steer the middle of the channel, veering neither to praise on the one hand, nor snooping for scandal on the other.

One of the rarest virtues of human society is a sincere desire to evaluate fairly both sides of an issue in controversy. At present, as in the past, scarcity of this virtue causes misunderstanding and takes a shameful toll of human suffering. Nor is the scarcity confined to one country or continent. The virtue of equilibrium, visualizing more than the contentions of one side in controversies, has been an attribute, and I hope an attainment, of this study.

The great lessons of life can be found in invisible principles which, like the law of universal gravitation, operate in all the actions of mankind, of whatever century or condition. Events are temporary, the principles permanent. Because people are much the same in every age, principles of progress, of character, and of human nature, can be learned from lessons of those who lived in central West Virginia, as well as from people who lived elsewhere.

The fact that considerable space is devoted to activities of men is not a denial of the truth that contribution of women in the maintenance of homes is the cornerstone of human progress.

Blank pages are provided at suitable places for the continuance of family records. These additions, in the handwriting of those dear to each particular branch of the family, will increase the value of the book in years to come. Generations of Chapmans, yet unborn, will examine the book with curiosity.

In preparation of the study I take pleasure in acknowledging the assistance of the nine living children of William Francis Marion Chapman. They tolerated my questionnaires with remarkable patience. This group of children, thirteen in all, have a part in the story that justifies referring to them at times by given names only.

Attorney Mayme H. Hamrick of Washington, D. C., encouraged me to undertake this study, and her able advice in its development has laid me under deep obligations in many ways. Miss Faith Kessell, Librarian of the Dunbar High School, Dunbar, West Virginia, kindly read the manuscript and improved

PREFACE

many of its pages. Included in a formidable list of those who contributed to the success of this undertaking are: Mr. Beverly E. Cogar, Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Daisy Chapman Dorsey, South Charleston, West Virginia; Rev. Rufus M. Dodrill, Indianapolis, Indiana; Miss Ruth Howard, member of the faculty of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Mr. R. H. Taylor, Director of Publications, Mid-West Printing Company, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mr. Charles Herold, County Clerk of Webster County; and many others whose courtesies deserve fuller recognition than space here permits. For errors or omissions in the work, I take complete responsibility.

I am subject to selective military service in a war with peoples whom I visited in days of peace, and whose hospitality I, like thousands of other American tourists, enjoyed. A considerable portion of the imperfections in this study must be charged to haste necessitated by that service.

My dominant aim is to present a true account; and only to the extent that that virtue is attained can the work be termed successful. While entertaining hope that all errors will be brought to light, I am reminded of an admonition of the first Stuart king, who more than three centuries ago wrote: "It is an easie thing for **Momus** to picke quarrels in another mans tale, and tell it worse himselfe; it being a more easie practise to finde faults, than to amend them."

BERLIN B. CHAPMAN

Charleston, West Virginia
September 5, 1942

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

CONTENTS

PART I

WILLIAM FRANCIS MARION CHAPMAN

I	Traces and Tradition	1
II	Ante Bellum Days	13
III	The Civil War	27
IV	The Mountain Monarch	37
V	Nancy Chapman's Last Years.....	73

PART II

THE THIRTEEN CHILDREN

VI	Introduction to Part II.....	83
VII	Mahala Jane Chapman	85
VIII	Currence Columbus Chapman	99
IX	Sarah Ruhama Chapman	111
X	Mary Susannah Chapman	121
XI	Columbia Myrtle Chapman	131
XII	Nathaniel Gaines Chapman	153
XIII	George William Chapman	171
XIV	Addison Grant Chapman	185
XV	John Richard Chapman	209
XVI	Charles Henry Chapman	221
XVII	Adam Luther Chapman	235
XVIII	Emma Virgie Chapman	245
XIX	Harmon Alvin Chapman	255
XX	Conclusion	281

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Webster County, central West Virginia.....	Inside Covers
Nancy Hamrick Gregory	Frontispiece
The Salt Sulphur Spring.....	5
William Given Gregory	9
Rebecca Sands	15
Record of Births of Billy and Nancy Chapman, and of their thirteen children.....	21
William Francis Marion Chapman.....	39
Chapman Farm on Point Mountain.....	43
Early Chapman Marriages—a page from the family Bible.....	55
Grant and Anna Chapman with their daughter, Nettie.....	61
Mahala Mace and her children, Stanley and Blane.....	87
Reverend O. F. Mace, William G. Mace, and Reverend Roscoe Mace.....	91
Currence Chapman	101
Gertrude Musgrave, Laura Capper, Nancy Chapman, and Luther Chapman	105
The Conrad Family	113
Mary Channell	123
Parker Paris Channell.....	127
Wes and Columbia Cogar	139
Lawrence and Iva Dahlstrom.....	143
A Teacher's Certificate in the 'Nineties.....	155
Gaines and Kate Chapman.....	159
Gaines and Sallie Chapman.....	165
George and Alice Chapman with their Children.....	173
Daisy Virgie Chapman	181
Grant and Icie Chapman.....	187
Nebraska Homestead Patent.....	195
Carl Bierce Chapman	199
Glyde Chapman Wilt and James Clynton Wilt.....	203
Family of John and Vina Chapman.....	213
Charley and Jennie Chapman.....	223
Blyn Chapman	227
Charles H. Chapman, Jr.	231
Adam Luther Chapman	237
Annie Sanford Chapman	238
Edna Mae Chapman	241
First Masonic Diploma Conferred by the Grand Lodge in the Commonwealth of Virginia.....	242
Emma Virgie Chapman	247
Group Photo at Cogar Home.....	248
The Five Sons of Walter and Emma Cogar.....	251
Harmon A. Chapman and Certificate.....	257
Harmon Alvin Chapman	269
Children of Harmon and Pearl Chapman.....	275
Addresses of the Nine Living Children.....	285

PART ONE

WILLIAM FRANCIS MARION CHAPMAN

CHAPTER I

TRACES AND TRADITION

Men resemble their contemporaries even more than their progenitors.—RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

One always retains the traces of one's origin.
—ERNEST RENAN.

The history of the name "Chapman" leads to England and to a foreign language. The Anglo-Saxons used the word, "ceapman," of which the first syllable, "ceap," is of French derivation, meaning "trade." Thus the term "ceapman" and its subsequent use as "Chapman" meant a dealer, a merchant, one who buys and sells.¹ True to their name, the earliest ancestors of the Chapmans engaged in mercantile pursuits. Their name is one of the oldest of the English surnames. In England, Ireland, and Scotland early bearers of the name achieved distinction. One of the Elizabethan poets was George Chapman, the translator of Homer.

Ruby Haskins Ellis found that during the early part of the seventeenth century a score or more of the Chapman family came to America and became "founders" of the name in this country. It appears that most of those who settled in New England came from Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, where the family was seated for a long period. Among the first Chapmans to migrate were Ralph, Robert, and Edward. Robert came to Boston in 1635, and subsequently removed to Saybrook, Connecticut. He served in the Pequot and King Philip's wars, was a deputy of the General Court, town clerk and was the governor's assistant a half-dozen years.

¹ Bosworth and Toller, *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, p. 148. "Ceap" also meant "cattle" in Anglo-Saxon. At one time the word "chap" meant a customer. *Encyclopedia Britannica* (14 ed.), v, p. 240. See also *Bible*, Second Chronicles, 9:14. In modern French the equivalent of the word "chapman" is "colporteur."

In regard to the first Chapmans to migrate to America, see *The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy; the Standard Genealogical Encyclopaedia of the First Families of America*, ed. by Frederick A. Virkus, vol. vi, p. 764.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

The first census of the United States, taken in 1790, lists 30 Chapmans in Virginia who were heads of families.² Seven of these persons bore the first name of "John"; four had the name of "James," and three had the name of "George." The census of 1790 lists 14 Chapmans in Maryland as heads of families. For Pennsylvania the number is 37, for Massachusetts 54, and for Connecticut 174.

Activities of the Ohio Company of Associates mark the successful beginning of organized settlement north of the Ohio River at Marietta in 1788. The company can be traced to a meeting of interested persons in Boston. Congress by an act of April 21, 1792, granted the company title to 750,000 acres, and added 214,285 acres to be paid for with army warrants. For this study the most important part of the act was the provision that 100,000 acres more, within five years should be "conveyed in fee simple, as a bounty and free of expense, in tracts of one hundred acres, to each male person not less than eighteen years of age, being an actual settler at the time of such conveyance."³

At a meeting of the directors of the company and trustees for granting lands to settlers, held at Marietta July 15 to July 17, 1793, nine allotments, or 17,000 acres of the 100,000 acres were assigned to settlers. In allotment no. 4 on Cat's Creek there were 27 allottees, among whom were Joseph Chapman and Ezra Chapman.⁴ Neither Joseph nor Ezra were shareholders in the company; nor were they in the original party of pioneers. The census of 1790 shows that two persons in Massachusetts, two in Virginia, and seven in Connecticut responded to the name of Joseph Chapman. The same census lists an Ezra Chapman in Massachusetts, but none in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, or Virginia. On February 1, 1796, in the company were about 584 shareholders having from one

² *Heads of Families*, First Census of the United States, 1790, p. 132. The complete schedules of the first census for Virginia and certain other States were in the State Department, and went up in flames when the British burned the Capitol at Washington in 1814. The figures for Virginia were subsequently compiled from records of State enumerations made from 1782 to 1785. The census shows in what county each head of a family lived, and the number of persons in the family.

³ *Statutes*, Vol. i, pp. 257-258.

⁴ *The Records of the Original Proceedings of the Ohio Company*, 2 vols., ed. by A. B. Hulbert. Cat's Creek enters the Muskingum River at what is now Lowell, Ohio.

TRACES AND TRADITION

third of a share of stock to five and a half shares of stock each. The name of Levi Chapman appears on the list as holder of half a share of stock. In 1790 three persons in Connecticut bore the name of Levi Chapman. It is said that about two thirds of the shareholders remained in the East.⁵ According to a traditional story some of the Chapmans, including the forebears of William Francis Marion Chapman, came to what is now Clay County, West Virginia, by way of the Ohio Company of Associates.

Of the early history of the Chapmans of central West Virginia little is preserved beyond short and simple annals, widely scattered. A traditional story evolved which is best related by Mahala Jane Gregory, eldest daughter of William Francis Marion Chapman. To her we are much indebted for the remainder of the material in this chapter.

The name of one—Joseph Friend—appears definitely identified in a course of uncertain events. He was probably Captain Joseph Friend, a soldier in the Revolutionary War. About 1781 Joseph Friend and Colonel Benjamin Wilson were in a group of men engaged in pursuit of Indians who had committed atrocities on Leading Creek in Tygart Valley.⁶ Among the first men in Randolph County to be fined for “profane swearing” was Joseph Friend. This term of court was held in 1800, and Friend was fined 33 cents.⁷

Whether or not confusion results from one or more men bearing the name of Joseph Friend, we know that the one of definite identification married a woman whose maiden name was Wilson. Their daughter, Mary (Polly) Friend, married William Arthur, and lived at Fork Lick, then in Randolph County, but now known as Webster Springs in Webster County.⁸

From the Virginia Land Office about 1785 Samuel Hanaway and Joseph Friend secured a tract of 216 acres which included

⁵ *Dictionary of American History*, iv, pp. 162-163.

⁶ Alexander Scott Withers, *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, ed. by R. G. Thwaites, p. 311.

⁷ Hu Maxwell, *History of Randolph County, West Virginia*, (1898), p. 195.

⁸ The reader should carefully note that “Fork Lick,” “Addison,” and “Webster Springs” all refer to the same location. According to the United States Post Office Department, the name of the post office of Addison was changed to that of Webster Springs on April 7, 1902.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

the Salt Sulphur Spring in what is now Webster Springs.⁹ Mary Friend inherited part or all of her father's portion of the land, some of which was within the incorporated limits of Webster Springs as now established. She and William Arthur, her husband, occupied a house overlooking bottom lands around the spring. William died about 1849, and was the first person buried at Fork Lick. After his death Mary and the children continued to reside there.

In their home on December 8, 1851, occurred the first election ever held at Fork Lick. The issue was the formation of a new county out of parts of Nicholas, Braxton and Randolph Counties. W. C. Dodrill says: "There were nineteen votes polled and each voter cast his vote in favor of the new county."¹⁰

One of the children born to Mary and William was Elizabeth (Bettie) Arthur.¹¹ When Elizabeth was young, probably in her teens, William O. Chapman came to the Arthur residence and hired her to go to his home to nurse his wife and to do house work. The Chapman home was "away down Elk River." Mrs. Chapman was sick, nurses were scarce, and the Chapmans "had" to have someone. At the Chapman home Elizabeth became engaged to be married to William C. Chapman, son of William O. Something happened that the marriage was not consummated, and William O. brought Elizabeth back to the home of her parents. Without benefit of clergy, William C. and Elizabeth became the parents of William Francis Marion Chapman, who on Friday,¹² June 3, 1836, was born in what is now Webster County. William Francis Marion Chapman was a great-grandson of Captain Joseph Friend, and a great-

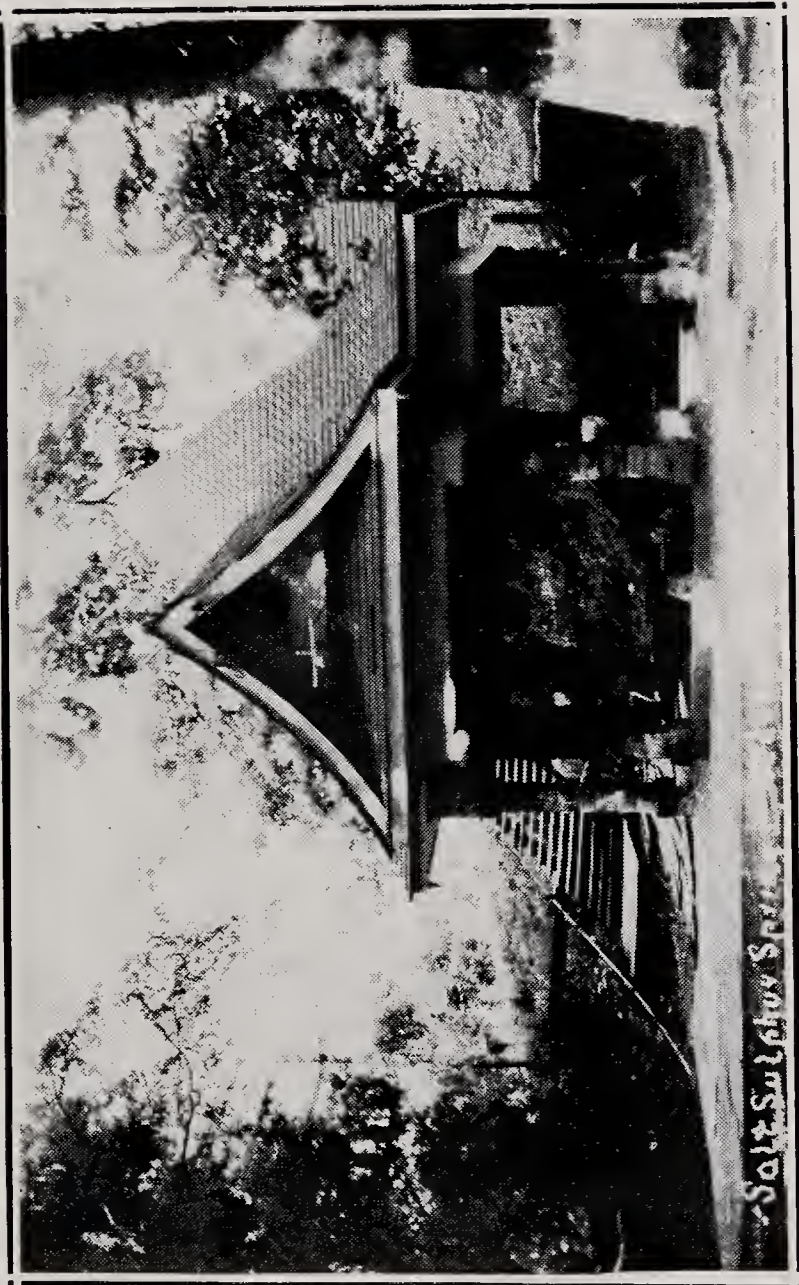
⁹ W. C. Dodrill, *Moccasin Tracks and Other Imprints*, pp. 67; 79. Dodrill's study is one of the most valuable ever made on the history of Webster County.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 87-88.

¹¹ Elizabeth Arthur's brothers and sisters were: Nathaniel, John, Randolph, William, Friend, Wilson, James, Joseph, Rev. Richard Anderson Arthur, Sarah, and Mary (Polly). Sarah married Adam Lynch and Mary married Isaac Lynch; thus two sisters married two brothers. Prominent among Elizabeth's brothers was Richard Anderson Arthur who taught in an academy in Cincinnati, Ohio; he was an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a minister of the Gospel. He married Belle Fisher of Wheeling. Their remains rest at Cherry Bottom, near Webster Springs.

In 1859 it was such men as Adam G. Lynch, Wilson Arthur and Richard A. Arthur who led the movement resulting in the formation of Webster County.

¹² For a given date, the day of the week is readily determined by looking at the "Ready-Reference Calendar" in *The World Almanac*, 1942, p. 159.



The Salt Sulphur Spring, Webster Springs.

TRACES AND TRADITION

great grandson of Colonel Isaac Davison, both of whom were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. William C. Chapman became a farmer and a local preacher. In 1896 he lived at Three Forks on the Little Sandy, about six miles from the Clay County courthouse. He seems to have died of old age.¹³

After Elizabeth Arthur became the mother of William Francis Marion Chapman, she married Richard Brooks Ware.¹⁴ At least for a time they lived on Big Grassy Creek, at the mouth of Gum Log Hollow, a half mile above where Mt. Zion Church stands. Their children were Mary, Sally, Martha and Richard Anderson (twins), Virginia, and John. During the Civil War, while in their youth, all the children of Ware and Elizabeth died, except Mary who married Levi Tharp of Virginia, and Martha who married a Mayes and lived in the vicinity of Little Levels, Virginia. The scourge of these young people was "camp fever" or typhoid,¹⁵ which also during the Civil War claimed their mother, Elizabeth. It is said that typhoid and trouble took the life of Elizabeth. Her remains rest in Mt. Zion cemetery on Big Grassy Creek in Webster County. At the head of her grave is a small stone bearing no inscription.¹⁶ In the same cemetery are buried three of her children, Sally, Virginia, and Richard Anderson.

Colonel Isaac Gregory married Sarah Given of Bath County, Virginia, which county now borders Pocahontas County, West Virginia. About 1800 he moved from Bath County to a location in Randolph County, now in Webster County. He was a noted hunter. It is said that at Buffalo Bull Knob on Point Mountain, above the Judge Dodrill farm, he shot the last buffalo killed within what is now Webster County. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. In 1814 he was appointed justice of the peace and served from the jurisdiction now known as Webster County. In 1852 he died. He was the father of William Given Gregory (the Classleader, born between 1801

¹³ Among the children of William C. Chapman were John, Alpheus, Jacob, Alice, Dorcas, Clark, and Moses. Moses established a home on Big Sandy Creek. See p. 90 below.

¹⁴ According to Mahala, the name was Richard Brooks Ware. He was called Richard Ware, but more often, Brooks Ware.

¹⁵ John seems to have been an exception. He was sent to Bull Town for salt. About half way on the return trip he lodged for the night, became sick and died that night.

¹⁶ Information contributed by Rev. O. F. Mace.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

and 1804),¹⁷ and of eight other children.¹⁸ William Given Gregory married Rebecca Sands who lived in what is now Kanawha County, West Virginia.

Levisa (Levicy) Fields Sands was the mother of Rebecca Sands. When Levisa was about five years old, her father (Mr. Fields) lived in a log cabin about three miles from a fort, established at or near the present site of Charleston, West Virginia. Mr. Fields and his wife had seven children, including Levisa. One day Mr. Fields was in his clearing chopping logs. Out some little distance from the cabin, Levisa was up in an apple tree breaking apple blossoms. The family dog saw Indians approaching the cabin and barked, thus attracting the attention of both Levisa and her father to the Indians. Levisa sat still up in the tree and her father hid under a log. The Indians ran into the cabin, killed and scalped Mrs. Fields and six of the children, and then went to the clearing and killed and scalped Mr. Fields. They set fire to the cabin, and ran away. They did not discover Levisa, and when she saw them leave, she climbed down from the tree and went to the fort.

Levisa Fields married Samuel Sands, to which union was born Rebecca Sands and nine other children.¹⁹

As already stated William Given Gregory, who was born between 1801 and 1804, married Rebecca Sands. One of their

¹⁷ Attorney Mayme H. Hamrick, a very careful student, says that William G. Gregory was born in 1804 and died in 1872. *The Hamrick and Other Families*, pp. 116-117.

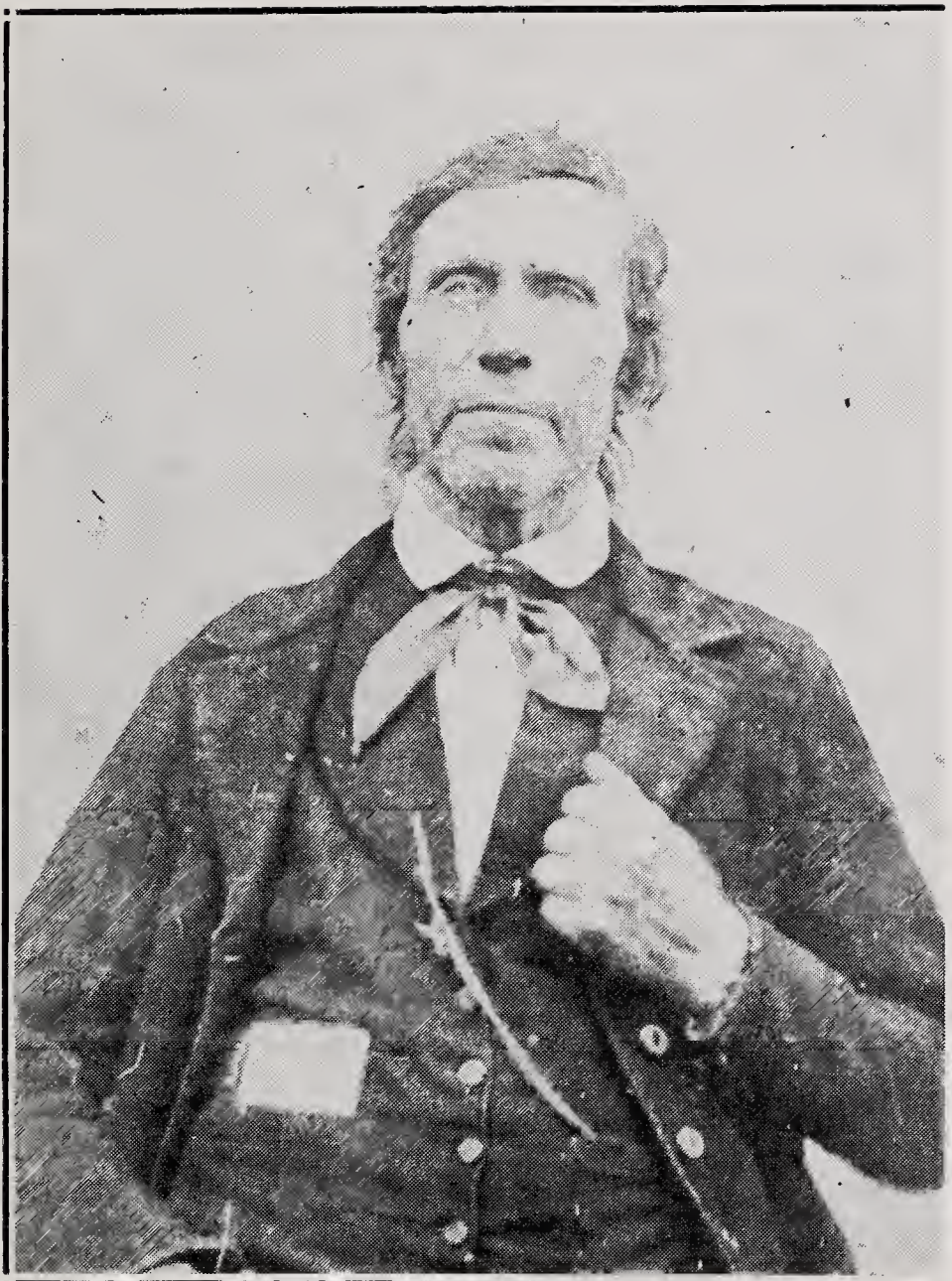
George W. Chapman says that he remembers very definitely a remark W. G. Gregory's widow made while talking with his father about Gregory's age. The remark is: "You know, he was born in 1801."

George's mother was W. G. Gregory's daughter. George says she told him he was born in March 1871, and that Gregory died the following September.

Nor does W. G. Gregory's monument at Bergoo satisfactorily establish dates in question. Henson Beal, agent for a company, erected this monument about 1900. The accuracy of an inscription on a monument, erected more than a quarter of a century after the death of the person, deserves to be questioned.

¹⁸ The following notation is made of the eight other children. Joseph married Mary Miller and resided in Braxton County, W. Va.; Robert (Bob) married Elizabeth (Bettie) Nottingham of Pocahontas County, W. Va.; Adam married Rebecca Dodrill; Nancy married Benjamin Hamrick; Jane (Jennie or Jeannette) married William Hamrick; Elizabeth (Betsy) married James Dodrill; Isabella (Isabel or Ibbie) married John Lynch; Mary (Polly) married George Lynch. The best account of the Gregory family is by Mayme H. Hamrick, *loc. cit.*, pp. 115-119.

¹⁹ The nine other children were Matthew, John, Samuel, Mattie Sands Boon, Margaret Sands Davis, Edith Sands Carpenter, Mary (Polly) Sands Miller, Sarah (Sally) Sands Cogar, and Elizabeth (Bettsy) Sands Given.



WILLIAM GIVEN GREGORY, the Classleader.

TRACES AND TRADITION

children was Nancy Hamrick Gregory, born on Monday, February 6, 1843.²⁰ The reader should carefully note that she was not a descendant of the Hamrick family. In 1848 William G. Gregory was commissioned justice of the peace and served from the jurisdiction now known as Webster County. He lived at Meadowland, near the present site of Bergoo,²¹ formerly in Randolph County. (He apparently never lived in Nicholas or Braxton.) Webster County was created January 10, 1860, and in the following May he was elected justice of the peace in Fork Lick district.²² In 1865 he was elected sheriff of Webster County. He was a devout man who lived according to the rules of the Methodist Church.²³ He died in 1871 or 1872, and has a monument in the cemetery at Bergoo.

Rebecca Sands Gregory died about March 1894, on Holly River at the home of her daughter, Jane Lough. Her remains rest in a Holly River cemetery. Her tombstone has no inscription other than her name.²⁴

With the explanations of this prologue, we are now ready to turn attention to William Francis Marion Chapman who takes the leading role in this story.

²⁰ Besides Nancy Hamrick Gregory there were seven other children. Margaret (Peggie) married William (Frizzly Bill) Hamrick; Jane married Daniel Lough; Adam married Elizabeth Green; Elmira married Addison McDodrill (the name in common parlance was shortened to "Dodrill"); Sarah married Joseph Warden Green; Mary (Polly) married John Mace; Levisa (Levicy) married Addison Fisher.

²¹ Bergoo is at the junction of Leatherwood Creek and Elk River, now in Webster County. Bergoo Creek joins Elk River about one and a half miles above the mouth of Leatherwood Creek.

The United States Post Office Department says: "The Leatherwood office was established on January 20, 1876, with Benjamin Hamrick as postmaster. The office was discontinued, October 31, 1881. On March 6, 1882, the Bergoo office was established and Mr. Hamrick was appointed postmaster. The Bergoo office has been in operation continuously to date."

It appears that when the Leatherwood post office was discontinued, a new post office, although located in the same place, required a new name, and that the new name was given in recognition of Bergoo Creek. When the town of Bergoo was built at the mouth of Leatherwood Creek, it took the name of the post office there.

²² Justices were commissioned by the Governor of Virginia until 1852, after which they were elected. A. S. Bosworth, *A History of Randolph County, West Virginia*, (1916), p. 175.

²³ W. C. Dodrill, *Moccasin Tracks*, pp. 99; 102; 137; 140.

²⁴ Information contributed by Stanley Brooks Chapman.

George W. Chapman says that Rebecca Sands Gregory died about March 1894. It is probable that his memory is correct because she was his grandmother, and died near Diana while he was there teaching the spring session of his first school. Cf. p. 172 below. Mahala thinks that Rebecca died at about the age of 87.

CHAPTER II

ANTE BELLUM DAYS

Let no man despise thy youth. 1 Timothy 4: 12.

The first century of American independence was dominated by the influence of the frontier.

—F. L. PAXSON.

William Francis Marion Chapman was known among his friends as "Billy," and for more than a third of his life, or after 1868, he bore the more distinguished title of "Squire" Chapman. The splendid character he developed may be attributed more to his own ambition, than to the influences of heredity, or his early environment. It was in what is now Webster County that Billy on June 3, 1836, first saw the light of day. His arrival could not have received more than a modest welcome. It was during his childhood that his mother, Elizabeth Arthur, was married to Richard Brooks Ware. Nor did Richard rate above mediocrity as a foster father. He believed in the doctrine that the morrow should take thought for the things of itself; he was human enough to concede that hard work is not one of the pleasures of living; and the number of his children increased in better proportion than he provided for his family.

Perhaps in this clouded condition the sociologist could uncover traces of development begun by Elizabeth in a humble way, implanted by her in the early life of her first child, which influences came to maturity after her death. Because man is a part of all that he meets, it is not easy to proportion influences on his life. For Billy, it is certain that his father's family in Clay County were energetic and industrious, and succeeded in accumulating a fair share of worldly goods. It is less certain, but probably true, that Billy grew to manhood in what is now Webster County and apart from his father's family.

A full and fair understanding of Billy's life cannot disregard the fact that his birth and boyhood were not accompanied by all the blessings society has ordained for its children. True,

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

the human race is much older than the social institution of marriage.²⁵ For the year 1936, a century of progress after Billy's birth, the United States Department of Commerce found that no less than 20 white children, in a thousand, were born in the absence of marriage ties.²⁶ Thus has a continual portion of our country's children begun the race of life with a birth recognized but not approved by the laws of the land. That race is not to the swift, for it is filled with many, many factors.

Billy had light-blue eyes. His hair was coal-black and somewhat curly. He attended a subscription school in a log structure located on bottom lands at the Pritt farm, near the junction of Big Grassy Creek and Little Grassy Creek. The school was two miles from his home. In those days a school was often an institution presided over by a "master," remembered for scholastic mediocrity, and for his physical savagery in dealing with pupils.

It appears that Billy received only one whipping at school, it resulting from the following trend of events. The children were playing fox, hen and chickens. The aim of the hen was to protect her chickens, while the aim of the fox was to catch them. Billy was the hen—John Clifton the fox. Billy wore a red wamus²⁷ Elizabeth had made for him. In the course of the game the hen lost to the fox all her chickens except one. This was Caroline Pritt who held with a determined grip to the red wamus. The wamus began to tear, and being more devoted to the preservation of that garment than to saving the life of his last chicken, Billy ordered Caroline to release her hold. Because of her disregard for that demand, Billy in an angry mood severed the hold by kicking Caroline on the shin. She ran to the schoolhouse and reported to the master, Israel Clifton, that Billy had fought her. Fighting was prohibited under the rules of the school. According to the story, on the resumption of school Billy was required to remove his wamus and jacket, and endure a punishment of 25 stripes administered by the master.

²⁵Edward Westermarck, *The History of Human Marriage*, vol. 1, pp. 27-28.

²⁶Figures for 1936 are in *The Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1938, p. 90; and in *Vital Statistics of the United States*, 1939, pt. 1, p. 8.

²⁷See p. 48 below. A subscription school, such as Billy attended, was one financed and maintained by families living near the school, who sent their children there.



REBECCA SANDS, wife of William Given Gregory.

ANTE BELLUM DAYS

Billy was in the same school when it was taught by a master named King. He also attended school at Fork Lick, now Webster Springs. There he may have studied under the supervision of Addison McLaughlin.

Billy was a poor fisherman, but was a successful hunter, in a region adequately supplied with deer, bears, and raccoons. During his boyhood Billy visited at the home of his grandmother, Mary Friend Arthur, and he may have lived a part of the time there. During morning hours there he saw deer, sometimes in a herd, at the Salt Sulphur Spring.

Before he reached the age of 21, much of Billy's life is shrouded in obscurity. Of this time two years of his work are remembered. On Gauley River he worked a year on a farm for James Dyer. Part of his compensation was a black mare called, "Pony," scarcely more than a colt. For another year Billy worked for William Given Gregory.

As explained above, Gregory was a politician of some local importance, and a classleader in church. He was an agreeable, congenial person, well-liked by his neighbors. A little less must be said for his wife, Rebecca Sands.

Billy was approaching manhood at the time he worked for Gregory. In courtship he rated a fair amateur, considering the year he spent at the Dyer farm. In the Gregory home were two sisters, Nancy and Elmira, in whom Billy developed a profound interest. He wanted one of them for his wife, but since he liked them equally well, some process of selection was necessary for the prosecution of his plans. Before the family fireplace, and on a practical point, this important decision was made. A principal factor in breakfast was corn dodger, made in the fireplace by use of a "baker." Rebecca insisted on conducting this particular operation of pioneer skill herself and would not entrust it to her daughters.²⁸ At least on one occasion Elmira was content to recognize her mother's monopoly, while Nancy insisted on participation in the performance. This occasion was a decisive matter in Billy's observation.

²⁸ Here is a trait of character noticeable in the lives of the thirteen children of Billy Chapman, and in some of their descendants. One may allocate to himself the sole responsibility of seeing that a certain kind of work is done, and thereby even tend to imprison himself at home. He may consider himself the only member of the family who can milk a certain cow, protect the home at night, or perform some other function of more or less importance.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

In due time Billy, age 20, won the consent of Nancy to become his wife, and then for this arrangement he sought the consent of her parents. Her mother, Rebecca, finding that a gentle refusal would not suffice, expelled Billy from the Gregory premises and forbade his presence there. But her father, William Given Gregory, knew that neither the wise advice of a father, nor the exertion of his physical force could quell the rising tide of matrimony. Billy saw him at church, called him aside for private conference and asked for his consent to marry Nancy.²⁹ According to tradition, the father said, "Why, Billy, she is only a child 13 years old and is too young to get married. But if you will wait one year you may have her." When the father made this statement he thought (according to his story in later years) that before the end of the year Billy would be attracted elsewhere, and thus would another family fracas find its deserved repose. Billy, like Gibbon, sighed as a lover but obeyed as a son. And he waited. Being excommunicated from the Gregory home by Rebecca, Billy could see Nancy only at church or at other community gatherings.

Rebecca was a midwife of considerable local renown. She earned one dollar a visit. She had no license, and needed none. On a spring day in 1857 Billy, while working on the farm of Currence Gregory four miles below Leatherwood, learned that Rebecca was absent from home on official business. Her absence was his opportunity, for that night he visited the home of William G. Gregory in order to see Nancy.

The next morning her father said: "Hang it all, Billy! If you and Nancy are bound to get married, the sooner the better, for her Mother is making such a fuss about it." Billy again sought the consent of Rebecca. She said, "No," meant what she said, knitted away and refused to discuss the matter. In language neither friendly nor dignified, the essence of her remarks was that the legality of Billy's birth was the same as that of William the Conqueror, to whom every king and

²⁹ On this occasion church services were held in the home of (Solomon?) Fisher near Desert Fork of Holly River. Billy was there because he learned that the Gregories would be present. After church services in the evening he and Nancy found seclusion in a corner of the living room. Their conference was soon disturbed by the hostess who, at the instance of Rebecca, said to Billy: "Chapman, we don't allow sparkin' [courting] here at meetin' times."

ANTE BELLUM DAYS

queen of England and Great Britain since 1087 has traced ancestry.

Momentous decisions are sometimes made by majority vote—and Billy's case was no exception. William Given Gregory gave him a written order for the marriage license. When Billy left for Beverly to secure the license, he was accompanied by his friend and witness, Billy Dodrill.³⁰ Rebecca watched them depart, riding their horses, but fortunately they were not engulfed in that unsightly place to which she condemned them. Billy asked his prospective father-in-law to perform the marriage ceremony, and this he did. Rebecca expressed her disapproval of the ceremony by applying herself to her knitting, dressed in a petticoat; moreover, she took no interest in preparing dinner, or otherwise joining in the festivities of that wedding day, Thursday, May 7, 1857.

The marriage was performed in the Gregory home at the mouth of Leatherwood Creek, near the present site of Bergoo. When we consider what a modern mother might do, were her daughter about to become a bride at the age of 14, we can scarcely condemn Rebecca. She was a pioneer on a sit-down strike. But she did not lose her daughter immediately. Indeed there was little change in the routine of events in the Gregory home, for Nancy and Billy lived there, or near by,³¹ for about a year.

It is proper to pause a moment to take further notice of Rebecca Sands Gregory, the little Irish woman with a high temper, occasionally contrary, but one who faced with firmness many a trying situation. Suffice it to say that the descendants of Billy Chapman have preferred to trace their desirable qualities to some other source than to the life companion of the Classleader.

Just how long it took Rebecca to recover from the marriage of her fourteen-year-old daughter and to accept Billy as a full fledged son-in-law is not easy to determine. Mahala

³⁰ It has been suggested that Billy Chapman's companion was Joe Dodrill, but Mahala insists that he was Billy Dodrill. Mary, her sister, feels sure it was Addison Dodrill. All agree that the companion was a Dodrill.

³¹ There is a story to the effect that Nancy and Billy could not stay at the Gregory home during the summer on account of Rebecca, but "moved to themselves up the creek." If so, Rebecca's temperature declined with that of the summer for at the arrival of winter Billy and Nancy were living in the Gregory home.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

thinks that Rebecca got "all right" within 24 hours; that if Billy had married Elmira, already 16 years old, or had waited a couple of years longer for Nancy, Rebecca would not have opposed him. According to the story, as Gaines Chapman heard it, Rebecca "pouted" a week or two, but one Sunday morning she and her husband came to call on the newlyweds, and she was very friendly.

We must not forget to linger a moment with the bride. She was of good physique, typically Gregorian. Her eyes were blue, her hair dark but hardly black. A mountain cabin, a garden, fields and woods were her domain. She was at home there. She could prepare an attractive dinner, and from a fleece of wool she could make a wamus. She laughed much, and always enjoyed a harmless joke. True, she never attended school a day in her life, and she never learned to write her name. Her father gave her a book of "pious songs," and taught her to read a few words, albeit slow and laboriously. She learned to read a little in the Bible—that was all.

Nancy virtually lived in a different world from that of her grandchildren today. She was a child of the age in which she lived. She knew no more about mathematics than girls of Webster County today know about twin-motored transports. During Nancy's girlhood few people on Elk River could read, and there was little to read. It was the era of the oral reader and of the long sermon.

It was Nancy's problem to live in the environment she found, to uphold the cardinal virtues of all ages, and with Billy to maintain a home and rear an honest and industrious family. Billy, the winner, could laugh about Rebecca's opposition to his marriage and forget the matter. He got along well with Nancy's parents; especially did he hold her father in high esteem. When Billy killed a deer he took them venison; and when he robbed a beehive he took them a dish of honey. If his father-in-law needed help, Billy was willing to stop the plow, if necessary, to assist him. If Rebecca needed Nancy to help put a web in the loom, Billy was willing for Nancy to go and help her.

Mahala Jane, the first child of Billy and Nancy, was born in the Gregory home on March 5, 1858. They became the parents of twelve other children born on the following dates:

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.	BIRTHS.
William F. W. Chapman June the 3 ^d . 1836	Mary Susanah Chapman January the 21 st . 1864
Nancy H. Gregory consort of William F. W. Chapman February the 6 th 1843	Columbia Chapman February the 9 th 1866
Michael F. Chapman March the 6 th 1838	Nathaniel G. Chapman June 2 ^d 1869.
Currence C. Chapman May the 28 th 1860	George W. Chapman. March 17 th , 1871.
Sarah H. Chapman February the 18 th 1862	Adeline G. Chapman. November 23 rd , 1872.
	John R. Chapman September 5 th 1876

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.	DEATHS
Charles H. Chapman May the 22 ^d 1848	Nancy H. Chapman January 2 ^d 1895
Alfred F. Chapman June 22 ^d 1850	William F. Chapman April 13 th 1864
Ernest W. Chapman February 20 th 1852	Alvin H. Chapman June 16 th 1884

Record of births of Billy and Nancy Chapman, and of their thirteen children, as preserved in the Bible. The list of births from John to Alvin Harmon, is in the handwriting of Billy Chapman. Deaths of Billy and Nancy Chapman were recorded by Gaines Chapman. Billy died September 1, 1889; Nancy, in the first hours of January 3, 1895.

ANTE BELLUM DAYS

Currence Columbus, May 28, 1860; Sarah Ruhama, February 18, 1862; Mary Susannah (Mary Ann), January 21, 1864; Columbia Myrtle, February 9, 1866; Nathaniel Gaines, June 2, 1869; George William, March 17, 1871; Addison Grant, November 23, 1872; John Richard, September 5, 1876; Charles Henry, May 23, 1878; Adam Luther, January 29, 1880; Emma Virgie, February 20, 1882; Alvin Harmon, June 16, 1884.

True to her profession as midwife, Rebecca attended Nancy when eleven of her children were born. Only Grant arrived without "Granny's" welcome.³² After the death of her husband in 1871 or 1872, Rebecca spent much time in the homes of her children, being with Nancy more than with any of her other children. Rebecca died in 1894.

Billy was not a crusader against whisky, nor did he approve of the liquor traffic. Never was he slow to take a taste of whisky if he felt ill. When he was a young man he drank a little. He said the last time he was "tight" he made a deal for some calves, got badly cheated, and decided whisky did not pay. He was through with drinking before his children were old enough to take cognizance of it.

According to Mahala, Billy in his boyhood was inclined toward the Baptist faith. But close to the age of 18 he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Nancy joined the same church when she was very young. Because they were faithful members as long as they lived, it may be said that they were life-long Methodists. Like most of their neighbors, they regarded a minister of the Gospel as little less than a deity on earth; and many a preacher on circuit found welcome and comfort before their hearth.

The old time religion, the roar of it, the mourner's bench, the handclasps in a surging mass of acquaintances, the tears and testimonies, the volume of vocal music, the long prayers with the congregation on their knees—only the shadow of it all remains. Should the great-grandchildren of Billy and Nancy frequent church services on Elk River or on Point Mountain today, they could scarcely get a vague conception of the old time religion. And yet, pioneers, no less than people of the present, worshipped the most high God and the

³² Nancy Hamrick, sister of the Classleader, was the midwife when Mahala was born. Rebecca was present.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Bible was their guide. Billy's testimonies were not long, and in the presence of the public, neither were his prayers.³³ Nancy was more eloquent in prayer, and was often called on to lead in that portion of the service. She testified in class-meetings, so popular in those days.

On the East and on the West, Billy at least one time saw land beyond the limits of West Virginia. About 1883 he was sent as a delegate by the local Methodist Episcopal Churches to a church conference in Wheeling, West Virginia. He was away from home about ten days. This was less than 200 miles from Point Mountain, and was the farthest extent of his travels.

He helped drive some sheep into Virginia, probably to Warm Springs or Staunton. This appears to have been before or during the Civil War, because he told of seeing a young negress at a whipping post in Virginia. He rode up just as she was being untied. Her back was bleeding and she was crying. Salt was put into places cut by the whip, to increase the pain.

Once or twice after his marriage Billy went to Clay County to visit his father, William C. Chapman. His father offered to give him a farm there if he and his family would live on it. But Billy preferred to live on the upper waters of the Elk, and declined his father's offer. In all, he and Nancy lived in eight different locations.

³³ After Rev. Richard Anderson Arthur, Billy's uncle, retired from the ministry proper, he sometimes went out to preach in rural churches. While Billy lived on Point Mountain, Rev. Arthur was secured to conduct a meeting there on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday evening he came to spend the night at the Chapman home. During the course of the evening he said: "Billy, I am going to call on you to pray tomorrow." The response: "Uncle Richard, it embarrasses me to pray in public." (Math. 6:5-6.) But the preacher said he would call on him.

Billy had a new variety of buckwheat called silver-hull, and was explaining to the preacher its fine qualities. The preacher told Billy it would not hurt to give him a peck, since he had a farm and would like to sow it. Billy said: "Uncle Richard, I'll give you a peck if you will not call on me to pray tomorrow." "That's a bargain," responded the preacher.

Rev. Arthur was a very able minister, but would sometimes stop in the middle of his sermon and tell a little, funny story—a practice still uncondemned by leading authorities on public speaking. Sunday morning he was preaching a powerful sermon on the subject of cross-bearing. Presently he stopped and said: "You must not be like Billy Chapman; he gave me a peck of buckwheat last evening if I would not call on him to pray today." Of course the congregation laughed. Billy said later that rather would he have prayed twice than to have had the incident told on him there before the whole house.

ANTE BELLUM DAYS

In December, 1859, a petition was presented to the General Assembly of Virginia by citizens of parts of the Counties of Randolph, Nicholas and Braxton. Billy was one of the signers of the petition.³⁴ It requested the creation of a new county out of parts of the three counties above named. In conformity with the petition the County of Webster was established January 10, 1860. Clouds of the Civil War were already gathering. To the confusion of events in that chapter of American history, we now turn.

³⁴ *Moccasin Tracks*, pp. 88-90. Webster was the last county in West Virginia to be created before the separation from Virginia. The county was named in honor of Daniel Webster.

CHAPTER III

THE CIVIL WAR

From whence come wars and fightings among you?
—JAMES 4: 1.

All things are wretched in civil wars.—CICERO.

While Mahala was the baby, Billy and Nancy Chapman moved from the home of William Given Gregory, to a home of their own about a mile up Leatherwood Creek. Billy erected the house. There Currence and Sarah were born. The peace and happiness of this hut, far up in the hills, were disturbed by repercussions of questions foreign to it. Those questions dealt with the extension of slavery into territories beyond the Mississippi River (a region which few, if any, of the settlers on Elk River ever saw), and with the contention that the wide expanses of our country were large enough to justify two nations instead of one nation. As exemplified in times not far past, a war party may stir people hysterically. Nor is it at all essential that there be logic at the roots of the excitement. Whether it was a question of settlers on Elk River saving the country for something or other, or of Woodrow Wilson making the world safe for the same reason, a toll of human suffering was exacted.

While supplying their meager wants by hunting game, hoeing corn or making maple sugar, or while warming barrel-heads at the country store, and clad in homespun, the freeholders on Elk River chose their respective sides in the great controversy of their country. With few exceptions it was soon known whether each man was "fur" or "agin'" Lincoln.

Fortunately the friendship of families often withstood party lines. Billy was a Republican. He cast his vote for Lincoln and cast abroad more words than were justified, considering the safety of himself and family. Only the intense interest he had in his wife and children prevented him from marching in ranks of Union soldiers. A close friend of his was James Woodzell, who found favor in the cause of the Confederacy.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

So did Richard Brooks Ware whom Mahala remembers as being at the Chapman home several days, and who lay on a pallet and sang war songs. Richard had left his family and was then on his way to Randolph County to seek protection of the Rebel army. During the war his wife and four of his children died. And no more was heard of him for 20 years.³⁵ Billy Dodrill was a Union man. So was Addison Dodrill, who scarcely was molested by either side because he knew that whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. William Given Gregory too late adopted the expression, "Hang it all! I am a know-nothing man." To escape the Rebels, he and Rebecca went to Upshur County for the duration of the war, or for a period of about two years.

During the war Webster County was raided by bushwhackers, who were thieves and robbers claiming to be on one side or the other. What one side spared, the other was likely to destroy. W. C. Dodrill says: "The Tuning boys, Al, Fred, and Jack, spent much time in Webster County during the first years of the Civil War. They were Southern sympathizers but they did not belong to any regular military organization. They killed several Union men in Webster and adjoining counties."³⁶ We may put it mildly and say that the Tunings molested citizens and made everyone fearful.

Billy Chapman and James Woodzell were on opposite alignments but cooperated for their mutual benefit. Tradition gives several stories about Billy during the war, some of them more or less conflicting. It is certain that southern bushwhackers had him slated to be shot, and that for safety about 1862 he moved his family from Leatherwood Creek to a house owned by Sam Wamsley at the head of Snake Run, near Mingo Flats in Randolph County. This was not far from the present site of Mingo. For transportation Billy had Pony, and another mare, "Melissa," which Nancy's father had given her. Travel was difficult, and it is not improbable that after loading the mares, Billy walked and carried a load himself. There were three children, Mahala, Currence and Sarah.

After moving the family to Mingo Flats, Billy returned

³⁵ In the early 'eighties Richard Brooks Ware, bearing the manner of an elderly man, came on horseback to the Chapman home on Point Mountain and spent the night there.

³⁶ *Moccasin Tracks*, p. 134.

THE CIVIL WAR

to Leatherwood Creek for the purpose of securing some of his belongings. It was almost sundown, and after a long trip he intended to spend the night on Leatherwood Creek. According to Mahala's version he would have stayed at the home of James Woodzell (who was occupying the Chapman house or one of his own not far away), but James said that Billy's life was in danger because bushwhackers might come. Billy then went to Addison Dodrill's home to spend the night. Said Billy, "I'm so tired I don't think I can travel tonight." Either Billy Dodrill or James Woodzell gave him the news that bushwhackers were coming up Elk River, close behind, and were "shooting every Union man."³⁷ One version of the story is that the rustlers were under Captain Matthew Perrine and another version has it that the notorious Tuning brothers were leading the gang. Without supper, tired, and with two tired mares Billy got together at least a part of a load and scampered out of sight up Elk River, headed for Mingo Flats. He was scarcely gone before the murderous gang were on the waters of Leatherwood Creek looking for him. By this time night was falling.

Details of events occurring that evening at Leatherwood Creek are somewhat conflicting as they come from different sources. One version is that Billy had asked James Woodzell to occupy the Chapman house, to prevent its being burned by bushwhackers; and that Woodzell was occupying the house on the evening in question. But Stephen R. Woodzell, son of James, says that his father was not at the Chapman house that evening but was at home. One thing is certain. The bushwhackers immediately on arrival at Leatherwood Creek went to the house James occupied, and surrounded it. James and his family were in bed. Expressions here quoted are said to have occurred in conversations that ensued: "Chapman, come out here. You have got to be shot. We have got you now." James' reply: "You have the wrong man—Chapman is not here." The retort: "We have heard that tale before. Come out, or we will burn the house."

³⁷ This is Mahala's version: "Billy Dodrill gave the warning. He was riding at good speed up the river. With his hat he waved to Chapman and shouted to get out of the way of the Tunings. At that time Addison Dodrill and Chapman had just put the horses into the barn, and were in the yard of the Dodrill home. Addison Dodrill was living in the house owned by William Given Gregory, who had moved to Upshur County for protection."

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

One version has it that the bushwhackers broke open the door. Certain it is that James insisted he was not Billy, that Billy was gone—was at Mingo Flats or almost there. James, being taken for Billy, was in danger of being killed before he could establish his own identity. He asked permission to stir up the fire and make a light so that he could prove he was James and not Billy. The opportunity was accorded him. The bushwhackers searched the house thoroughly. They went to the barn to see if Billy's horses were there. They went to Addison Dodrill's home in search of Billy and talked of pursuing him farther. Addison, like James, did all he could to discourage them from following Billy, saying that he was in Randolph County by that time. Both contributed to his escape, because tired as he was he could doubtlessly have been overtaken.

About seven miles from Leatherwood Creek on the trail to Mingo Flats, Billy came that night to a farm owned by one of the Hamricks, Curly Jim³⁸ or Peter. The trail led through the field from one rail fence to the other. Billy laid down the fence, entered the field, mounted Melissa and proceeded on the way. Hamrick's stallion was in the field and came up in wild excitement. The mares dashed for the other side of the field. In the commotion Billy was thrown from Melissa with his foot fastened in a stirrup. He was dragged and bruised. At the fence, the stallion turned his attention to Pony thereby giving Billy opportunity to release his foot from the stirrup. For the second time that night he escaped a rendezvous with death.

About three miles farther on Billy stopped at the home of Jerry Cowgar for the remainder of the night. He said that, regardless of consequences, he was so completely exhausted that he had to stop. Mrs. (Aunt Phoebe) Cowgar got him a "bite to eat"; and the weary man and two tired mares took their deserved rest. The next day Billy reached his new home on the head of Snake Run. Well could he have agreed that happy is the man, the events of whose life are uninteresting.

The Sam Wamsley house on Snake Run included a large kitchen with a chimney, and a sitting room ("big house" or

³⁸ Mahala insists that Curly Jim Hamrick was the owner.

THE CIVIL WAR

"dwelling house"). After Billy and the family located there, Adam G. Hamrick, his wife Rebecca Mollohan, and their five children, Martha Jane, Lucinda, Susan, Luverna and James Lee, moved into the kitchen. Other persons took refuge in the neighborhood. Joseph Green and his wife Sally (Sarah) Gregory (sister of Nancy) located on the Jake Wamsley farm near by. James M. Hamrick took his family to the Salisbury farm. His son, Moore Hamrick, then eleven years old, said from that farm he could hear the cannons at Elkwater.

Not long after locating at Mingo Flats, Billy, Sally Green who was his sister-in-law, Curly Jim Hamrick and some other persons in the vicinity, went to Beverly to trade at what was their most convenient stores. The town was surrounded by a picket guard. The visitors were admitted to the town, but after having secured their goods the picket line denied them exit without a pass from headquarters. Because of danger of an attack by Confederate soldiers under General John D. Imboden, the pass was not granted for twelve days. This appears to have been in November 1862, at which time Imboden with 310 Confederates reached St. George, 30 miles north of Beverly.³⁹

Sally's brother-in-law, Jim Green, was a soldier at Beverly, and he cared for her horse during the interim. William G. Hamrick, first cousin of Nancy, was also a soldier there. Billy told him that Pony was starving and asked his help in getting feed for her. Hamrick said: "I will take off my uniform and you put it on. Up yonder on the hill is a stack of government hay. You lead your beast right up there as though you were one of our soldiers. Stake her to the hay till she gets her fill, then bring her back into camp."

Billy wore the uniform of a Union soldier and took Pony to the haystack. He would like to have repeated the trick the next day, but Hamrick declined saying that they would be caught "if this happens too often."

Finally the good news came that the Confederate soldiers were not coming, but had gone to Virginia. The visitors

³⁹ In regard to Confederate trans-allegheeny raids, see J. M. Callahan, *Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia*, pp. 156-158. Imboden captured Beverly in the spring of 1863, and moved on to Weston. Beverly was attacked by Confederates in June 1863, the autumn of 1864, and in January 1865. See also C. H. Ambler, *Francis H. Pierpont*, pp. 150; 190-192.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

started home. But before he left, Billy saw the soldiers celebrate the good news by firing simultaneously at a large poplar tree across the river. There was a roar like thunder, and the tree was shattered.

Adam G. Hamrick's wife died in May, leaving five children whom Nancy cared for a few months. She and Billy faced problems that challenged the optimism of youth. They were not free from visitations of rustlers and thieves. Billy's life was in danger. He stayed away from the house, somewhat in seclusion, a great deal. In summer on moonlight nights he worked in the field, hoeing corn, etc. One night while he was in the house seven Rebels called. In a civil war such calls on a father with a wife and little children to care for, doubtlessly brought heart throbs. Billy knew one of the men. They were in quest of information about events in the community. At Mingo Flats, Billy's livestock was stolen, his clothes taken from his home, and Nancy's life was threatened if she did not give ammunition and other property to the raiders.

Yankees were friends of the family. One night the Chapman home at Mingo Flats was the site of a prospective skirmish which fortunately did not occur. About 50 men in blue were there. They were in the yard, in the loft, and throughout the house. That day Billy had brought home two bushels of corn meal for his family. The commanding officer and the soldiers wanted the meal made into bread. So Billy and the men cut wood from fence rails and kept a fire in the fireplace, while Nancy converted the two bushels of meal into bread that night. The house was a martial camp. Either in defense of his home or on general principles, Billy offered to use a gun and join in the fight when it started. The commanding officer cautioned him to keep his wife and children in the corner by the fireplace, if fighting began. But there was peace that night. When the soldiers left the next day they gave Nancy five dollars in gold. They shared with Billy and Nancy some of their provisions, including crackers, not free from worms.

Captain Jake B. Marshall, a Confederate officer, was one of Billy's friends before and after the Civil War. One day during the war Marshall with his troops passed by the Chapman home near Mingo Flats. Billy and Peter Hamrick were in

THE CIVIL WAR

the woods hunting. Marshall was confiscating cattle, horses and other property necessary for the prosecution of the war. It appears that he gave orders to his men not to take Pony. At least that is what he claimed after the war.

It is certain that one of Marshall's men, John Tacy, whose home was at Lee Bell on Beckys Creek, left his old worn-out horse at Billy's home, and that he rode off on Pony. Details revolving about this central fact are at variance. One version is that Tacy and another man lingered at the rear of Marshall's procession; that Tacy seized Pony and hitched her, while he proceeded to rob the house of anything he desired; that while he was in the house Nancy pulled the halter off Pony, and hit her with it, causing her to run; that Tacy cursed Nancy; that he and the man with him mounted their horses and caught Pony; that in desperation Nancy clung to Pony's bridle, begging Tacy not to take the mare; and that Tacy threatened her life, saying, "Damn you! Let go, or I will drop you right there."

Another version makes Tacy a lone wolf in the seizure of Pony, but portrays him as being less wicked. About 10:00 a.m. the event happened. Nancy had been on a mountain gathering sumac berries with which to color yarn. She was riding Pony, and had just returned home. Mahala says: "Mother removed the sidesaddle, then led Pony down to the orchard lot a little way below the house. The house was 15 or 20 steps from the road. Mother looked up the road and saw the herd of cattle and the cavalry coming. She held the mare by the bridle, believing the chances of keeping her were better by so doing, and begging mercy at the hands of the invader. Tacy left the other cavalymen, came straight to Mother and told her to let him have that beast because the army needed her. Of course Mother objected. Tacy jerked the bridle from her hand. He removed from his old horse the saddle and bridle, a cavalryman's outfit, put them on Pony, mounted her and galloped off. Captain Marshall was not near Tacy, for I was out in the yard standing on a large limestone rock, looking at Mother, the men and cattle." Pony had a colt about six months old, and it was left in the orchard. The old horse Tacy left at the Chapman home soon died.

The day's hunt netted Peter and Billy a turkey and perhaps

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

a deer. As they came into the road near home, Billy exclaimed, "Oh, Pete, just look at this road. The army passed today. I wonder if they took my mare." As they approached the house, Billy saw the colt in the orchard, running and squealing for its mother. Well did he know what had happened, so that it remained only for Nancy to tell him how it occurred. Only a horseman knows the confidence, dependability, and almost companionship that can exist between a person and a beast of burden. This Billy knew. And with a recollection of his year at the Dyer farm, and of the loss of property acquired with so much labor, he felt keenly the loss of Pony. He paced the floor from one door to the other, and could scarcely refrain from tears. Peter could offer little consolation, but he said: "Billy, don't take it so hard. Those that have must lose. It might have been worse—the soldiers might have burnt your house."

The next morning Billy asked some of his neighbors to follow the soldiers, with the intention of asking Captain Marshall to have Pony returned home. The soldiers were followed, probably to Beverly, and were overtaken. The neighbors learned Tacy's name. Marshall explained that Pony had already been shipped "South of Dixie Line" with other stock, so that there was nothing he could do. He was on a military expedition. Why should he have released one animal and not the others? Pony was heard of no more. Billy's loss was painful. But he was a Union man who, at least on one occasion during the war, wore the uniform of a soldier. Tacy should not be thoughtlessly condemned. It all happened under the law of the jungle. After the war, Tacy returned to Beckys Creek in Randolph County.

Billy lived at the location near Mingo Flats for more than a year. In 1863 or early in 1864 he moved to the south banks of Elk River about three miles below Whittaker Falls.⁴⁰ He had Pony's colt, and a cow he had bought; and Adam G. Hamrick had given Nancy two heifer calves for taking care of his children after the death of their mother. Billy bought from his neighbors the small amount of feed that he could, but did not have enough for the stock.

⁴⁰ Sharp justice of Union bullets overtook Al Tuning and Fred Tuning on March 4, 1864, and removed those desperadoes from Webster County.

THE CIVIL WAR

One day in January he told Nancy he would take the stock to the hillside and there cut timber for browse. The snow was about shoe-mouth deep. Billy led the colt, and Mahala drove the cattle, following about 200 yards behind him. To get the cattle to follow he would cut a sapling here and there. He tied the colt to a shrub, and cut a basswood tree which, when it started to fall, frightened the colt. The colt ran under the falling tree, its back was broken, and it died. To Billy the loss of the colt was no less painful than the loss of Pony.

Crimes were still committed under the name and cover of the Civil War. At least on one occasion a rustler, who Mahala says was Matthew Perrine, invaded the Chapman home. Billy Chapman and David Hamrick were in the woods making grindstones. When the rustler, with gun drawn on Nancy, demanded of her where Billy was, she was almost too frightened to talk. Said Mahala: "Tell him Father is hunting." All rustlers were told that Billy was hunting because a man hunting was harder to locate than one at work. It appears that Perrine carried off a new suit of clothes Billy had bought, and his martingales. He was riding a mare and carrying a rifle, stolen property belonging to Nancy's father. Tradition has it that the rustler, in later years, became a minister of the Gospel; however, made no compensation for his robbery.

Mahala says: "On one occasion Mat Vires and Alec Goff rushed into our house and demanded that Mother give them gunpowder. She told them that the only powder about the house was a tablespoonful in a teacup in the cupboard. They threatened to shoot her brains out unless she gave them more powder. They left, however, without taking anything. The worst rustlers were men on Elk River below Addison, or from the vicinity of Braxton County."

Billy and Nancy lived below Whittaker Falls for more than a year. They grew at least one crop there. Traces of events of their lives that come down to us from the days of the Civil War are not indicative of cheer and comfort. Rather they indicate struggle, a determined effort of a family to sustain itself by honest means, and to rise from poverty to a position of respect. Darkened by the shadow of terror from without, the home within had harmony and hope in the future. The family engaged in a mutual cause. There were times when

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Billy romped with the children. They and Nancy could sing; and Billy had a powerful voice, perhaps one of more volume than of culture. Relations with the neighbors were usually congenial and pleasant.

William Christian Dodrill said that the Civil War "was a great uplift to the Nation."⁴¹ It is strange that so able a scholar, and one whose life was so close to that deluge of destruction, should have kneeled down so humbly at the altar of Mars. Perhaps we should be kind and charge his words to a phrase of oratory. Certainly, we should not forget that what the Civil War did to uplift the Chapman family on Leatherwood Creek, the Moore family on Point Mountain,⁴² and the families of Gregorys and Hamricks in Webster County, that it did to uplift the families of the Nation.

⁴¹ *Moccasin Tracks*, p. 298.

⁴² See p. 45 below.

CHAPTER IV

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

A man severe he was, and stern to view.

—OLIVER GOLDSMITH, in *The Deserted Village*.

To understand all is to pardon all.—A FRENCH
PROVERB.

This chapter spans a quarter of a century of Billy Chapman's life, from the close of the Civil War to his death in 1889. The setting is on this order: Billy is 29 years old. He lacks three inches of attaining a height of six feet, and his weight never exceeds 168 pounds. He and Nancy have four children, Mary having been born at the home below Whittaker Falls. With only remnants of their pre-war belongings, the parents begin to accumulate property, and to establish themselves on a farm. Billy's increasing responsibilities rest upon a complete realization that he will rule the expanding household. There lie ahead opportunities for education, comforts of the home, wholesome community activities, and for other fruits of progress that grow best in time of peace.

In 1865 or 1866 the family moved from the home below Whittaker Falls to a place already known as Bill's Knob on Gauley Mountain. Billy bought some cows; and from Adam G. Gregory he bought a black mare. He cleared about ten acres of land, and hired men to work. In a modest way he began dealing in cattle, wintering sometimes a half-dozen cows and 20 or 30 calves and yearlings. One winter his feed was scarce and he cut timber to browse the cattle. He contracted a cold which somehow injured his digestive system so that his health was impaired the rest of his life. It appears that he was first elected justice of the peace in 1868. The arrival of Columbia and Gaines increased his children to six.

At the head of the left fork of Bob Run, Billy and his neighbor, Kelly Ben Hamrick, built a log schoolhouse halfway between their homes. It had a puncheon floor, and the roof and door were made of oak clapboards. A wide fireplace was

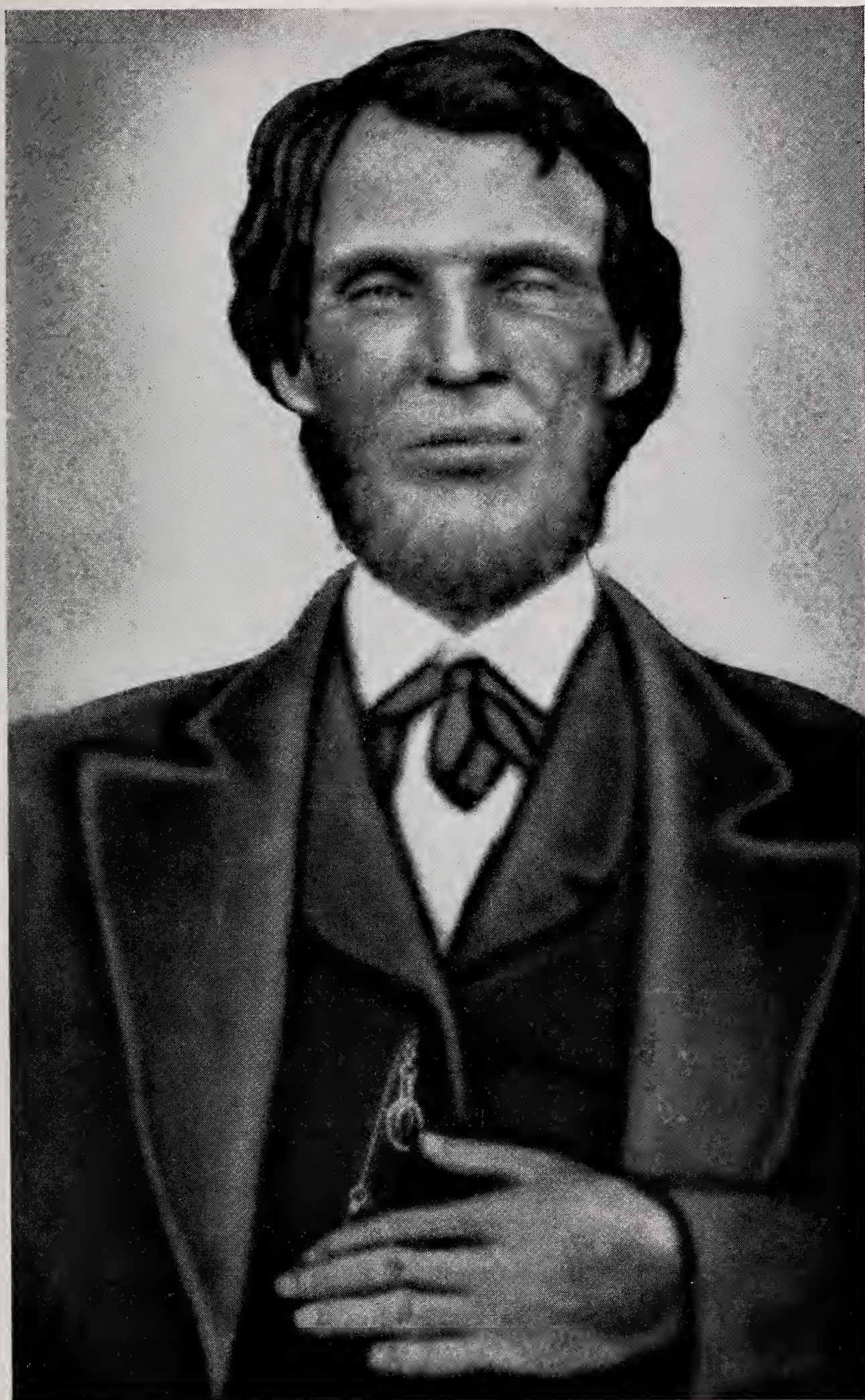
THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

built of stone and mud, and around the chimney was a frame of logs. Billy taught the first term of school there in 1866, a subscription school of two or three months. He had no teacher's certificate. During his term of school and subsequent terms, "scholars" at noon cut wood in the forest surrounding the school, and dragged it into the yard for fuel. After the teacher built the fire in the morning, the schoolboys replenished it throughout the day. Billy's daughter, Columbia, thinks this schoolhouse was the same "small log hut" in which she taught her first school in 1888. Curly Tom Hamrick removed the building when he bought the school-ground site and erected his home there.

Mahala tells of an incident that occurred while the family lived at Bill's Knob. The incident is here recorded as she wrote it in her eighty-fourth year.

In the spring of the year Billy Chapman and Kelly Ben Hamrick, who were cattle raisers, would take their cattle and young horses off to range or pasture all summer in the wild woods up Leatherwood Creek and the Gauley Divide. Billy had two yearling colts—Ben had three. Each of the men had a considerable herd of cattle. About every two weeks they would take from a peck to a half-bushel of salt and gather their colts and cattle up to a place they called the Stomping Ground, not far from Red Oak Knob.

One day as usual they went to hunt up colts and cattle. Billy had a bell on one of his colts and there were three or four good bells on the cattle. But that summer had been somewhat dry and the cattle had gone in toward the head of Gauley River. A family lived up there by the name of Johnson. Well, Billy and Ben found the colts and brought them to the Stomping Ground. It was getting up in the evening—say about two o'clock. Ben said: "Billy, we can't reach those cattle and get back home by dark; we just can hear one of the bells faintly. So you put the halter on the lead colt and take them home, for it is getting time we take the colts home. I will go on up after the cattle, salt them, and go and stay tonight with Bill Johnson, and go home tomorrow."



WILLIAM FRANCIS MARION CHAPMAN
(Billy Chapman)

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

Billy started with the colts—traveled quite a distance; then he came right back to the Stomping Ground, the place from which he had started. He sat down and rested, then started again. He traveled a good while, then came back to the Stomping Ground. He hollered [holloed] for Ben but Ben could not hear him. The owls answered. Then he shot his gun off twice and wrote on the ground: I AM LOST. Again he shot off his gun and that time Ben answered with his gun away in next to the head of Gauley. Billy sat there till Ben came to him and he told Ben that he was lost; so Ben led the way back to the path leading to the settlement.

Billy Chapman said he never would forget Kelly Ben Hamrick. To think that he was lost deep in the mountains and that Ben had run up a mountain—drops of sweat on his blood-red face—and showed him the way home.

A few years after the death of his mother, Billy made a copy of the following song, under date of December 3, 1869. He learned to sing it, and Mahala learned it, too. She gives the words as follows:

I HAVE NO MOTHER NOW

I hear the soft winds sighing
Through every branch and tree,
Where now dear mother's lying,
Away from loving me.
Tears from my eyes are starting
And sorrow shades my brow.
Oh! Sad the hour of parting,
I have no mother now.

I see the pale moon shining,
On mother's white headstone;
The rosebush round it twining
Is here like me alone—
And just like me is weeping,
Those dewdrops from my brow;
Long time has she been sleeping,
I have no mother now.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

My heart is very lonely,
My life is drear and sad;
It was her dear presence only,
That made my spirit glad.
From morning until evening,
Cares rest upon my brow;
She's gone from me to Heaven,
I have no mother now.

About 1870 Billy moved from Bill's Knob to the River farm on the north bank of Elk River at Leatherwood.⁴³ Across the river from this farm was the Gregory farm where Nancy and Billy were married, made their first home, and where Mahala was born. For about four years Billy and Nancy lived on the River farm. There George and Grant were born.

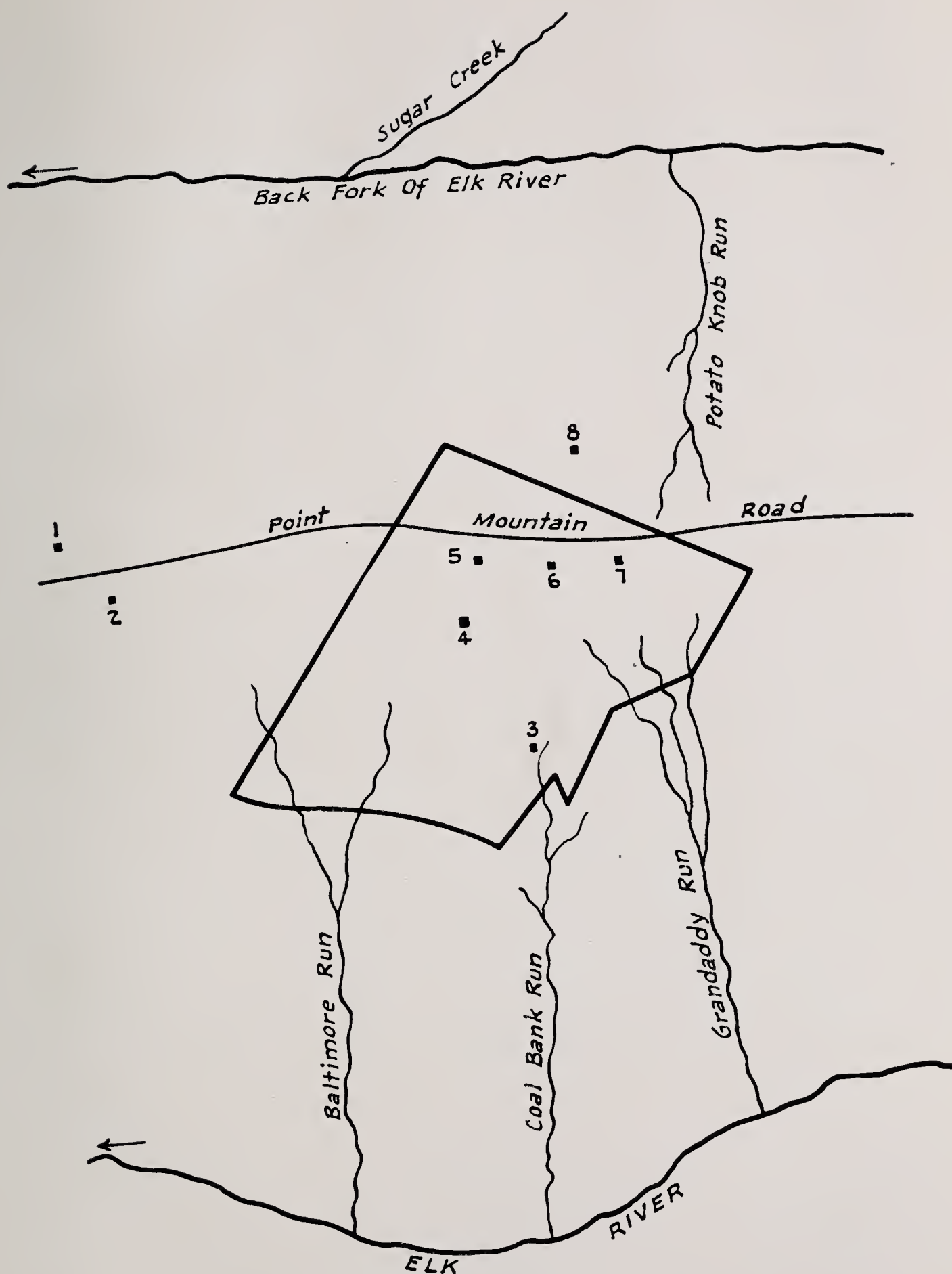
It appears that in 1872 Billy was re-elected justice of the peace. He was a Republican living in a Democratic county. During his term as justice several cases were tried in his home at the River farm. While living there, he and Robert Green were instrumental in saving the life of a schoolteacher, James M. Hamrick of Braxton County, who one morning attempted to cross Elk River on ice too thin to walk on with safety. The rescue was effected by use of fence rails.

Billy kept a half-dozen cows, three or four horses, a yoke of oxen and other stock. In order to have room for more livestock he decided to move, and sold the farm to Kelly Ben Hamrick.

In March 1873 or 1874 (Mahala says March 17, 1874) Billy moved from the River farm to the Henry C. Moore farm on Point Mountain, a distance of three miles. The latter farm overlooked the former. The Moore farm properly came to be known as the Chapman farm. From Webster Springs the farm is eleven miles, mostly upgrade. It was here that Billy moved before he was 40, and it was here that he spent the last 15 years of his life.

Moore was born in Maine in 1817. He settled on the Point Mountain farm, probably about 1850. Before the Civil War he entered and obtained a patent for about 395 acres, which

⁴³ Mary, sister of Mahala, says that Billy bought the farm from David Hamrick.



CHAPMAN FARM ON POINT MOUNTAIN

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Woodzell post office. | 5. Barn Currence Chapman built. |
| 2. Log Cabin schoolhouse. | 6. Home of Billy Chapman, 1879-1889;
now home of C. Lee Bonner. |
| 3. First home of Billy Chapman on
Point Mountain, occupied about
1874-1879. | 7. Chapman cemetery. |
| 4. The Cold Spring. | 8. Potato Knob, elevation about 4,000
feet. |

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

on actual survey came closer being 500 acres. He planted a large orchard of improved fruit, mostly apple trees, which he brought from New York. Either the trees were grafted in New York and brought to the farm or grafts were put in stubs on the farm. Moore in 1853 married Margaret Hamrick,⁴⁴ a first cousin of Nancy Gregory Chapman. He bore the reputation of a graduate and of a very fine scholar. He was an excellent reader. His neighbors commented on his ability to read and "look off the book half the time." He must have been a man of unusual physical qualities for it is said that at the age of 80 he could stand on the ground by a horse and literally jump into the saddle.

Moore was a Republican—a Union man. In the spring of 1861 he represented Webster County in the First Wheeling Convention. During the same spring he was at Beverly and secured a newspaper telling of increasing hostilities of the Civil War. This news was of personal concern to him and he took it seriously. Not long thereafter when his neighbors, among whom was Billy, gathered at his farm for a log-rolling, Moore stood on a heap of logs, called the men around him, and read to them the news he had secured at Beverly. This event exemplifies how slowly war news penetrated the hills of Webster County. And one may be permitted to ask whether settlers in the county would have been happier and more fortunate had means of communication been so sluggish that the war would have been over before news reached them that it had begun. As civilization of nations developed, much improvement in human comfort was attained, and with it there grew up efficient military organizations honored alike by nations, Christian and pagan, and designed for slaughter of mankind.

When Moore read the newspaper atop the heap of logs, tears ran down his face. He was reading news of an event that would destroy his home and make refugees of the Moore family. The home was burned by bushwhackers of a Confederate stripe, and the family migrated to Iowa. Many of the smaller apple trees were pulled up, stolen during the war, and planted on other farms in Webster County. By this

⁴⁴ Margaret's parents were Benjamin Hamrick and Nancy Gregory Hamrick. There is a good sketch of Moore, by Mayme H. Hamrick, *The Hamrick and Other Families*, p. 125; see also, *Moccasin Tracks*, p. 156.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

process of illegality (somewhat justified because Moore joined the Federal army), the Moore farm became the nursery from which many of the best apple trees of the county could be traced during the next half century.

Mahala says that to her knowledge Moore never returned to Point Mountain. But his wife, Margaret (Peggy), and three children returned to the site of their former home about 1874 or 1875. Nim (Nimrod) was about 15 years old, Frank 8, and Mary was about 6 years old. The visitors stayed from early spring to late fall, spending much of the time with James Hamrick, brother of Margaret, and with other relatives on Elk River. With Nancy's help the visitors gathered and dried a bushel of blackberries that grew on the Moore farm. These berries they took West with them. In the autumnal season, when chestnut burs began to crack open, Billy cut down some chestnut trees, so that the boys could gather the nuts.

The purchase Billy made of the Moore farm about 1874 throws light on the value of land at that time. Before he secured the farm, 20 acres of it had been sold for taxes. The remainder of the farm he acquired by paying taxes and court costs amounting to about \$392. Payment was made to two lawyers of Beverly, David H. Lilly and Joseph Thompson. Subsequently Billy bought the 20 acres that had been sold for taxes, and paid therefor about \$100. The money he received for the River farm he paid in part for the Moore farm and in two or three years he acquired a fee simple title to it. To pay for the Moore farm Mahala said, "he raised and sold cattle, sheep, hogs and horses; and from his fields he sold corn, rye, oats and wheat." After he bought the farm Theron R. Cherry claimed to hold title to lands near by, and contended that limits of his land overlapped the Moore farm. Cherry instituted a suit in court, which Billy won, but at considerable cost to himself. Billy was represented by Spencer Daton, an attorney of Beverly.

To the south of the Moore farm on Point Mountain is Elk River, and to the north is the Back Fork of Elk River. These rivers join at Webster Springs. When Billy lived on Point Mountain there was a density of chestnut timber, producing sufficient chestnuts to fatten hogs in the autumn. Maples, oaks, birches and other kinds of trees common to Webster

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

County grew in abundance. Timber was more of an impediment than a source of wealth. Acres of virgin timber were cleared and the logs burned. Land on the farm was sufficiently level to justify the use of a mowing machine. Deep snows fell on Point Mountain, and drifted over fences six feet high. The soil was of fair fertility. The supply of game was adequate. Drinking water came from springs of unquestioned purity. Especially was the Cold Spring appreciated, for no rays of an August sun took the chill from its gurgling waters.

The Moore farm was touched by a section of the Slaven's Cabin turnpike, now a part of State road, number 15. The turnpike was planned but never completed. A ten-mile section of it was completed, the western end of which touched the Moore farm. This section of the road was 16 feet wide. Concerning the turnpike, Gaines Chapman wrote: "When the Civil War began, the pike had been built from the Flint farm (where Jake Hamrick subsequently lived) to the Moore farm, ten miles. The road down the end of Point Mountain toward Valley Head, and down to Elk River from the Moore farm was not built, but was surveyed. Had the war not started, the pike soon would have been completed from Valley Head to what is now Webster Springs, as H. C. Moore had secured an appropriation by the General Assembly of Virginia to build the road. Work had started but the war stopped it. So I heard Father say."

When Billy moved to Point Mountain the ten-mile section of road had been so much neglected that bushes were growing on it, some saplings having attained a diameter of six inches.

To Point Mountain Billy and Nancy moved with their eight children, ranging in years from two to sixteen. Five children more were scheduled to arrive during the next decade. Some of Billy's and Nancy's grandchildren, now struggling to rear three or four children, may well consider the herculean task that lay before those pioneer parents on Point Mountain. Billy was frail in health but Nancy was more fortunate in that respect. The children were vigorous and able to work. To scorn relief, to lumber along with almost pre-horse-and-buggy methods of education, commerce, transportation and medical care, to wrestle a living from the soil, and to entertain hope of making the top of a cold mountain a springboard to a

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

plentiful living, if not to prominence, required penetrating vision, effective and exacting government, and great perseverance.

The first problem was to secure food sufficient in substance, even if monotonous in variety. Then came clothing, accumulation of property ("something to go on"), school, church, and in the community a position of respect for the family, including an office for the head of the house. Most of the insectile pests and diseases of fruits and plants that are now so injurious, were unknown to Billy. On his farm was a good orchard. Among the variety of apples were the July, Fallawater, Pippin and Northern Spy. Prominent on the winter menu were dried fruits, maple sugar, beans, potatoes, salt pork and corn bread. While there were apples, turnips and a few other vegetables, the premium for something fresh and green to eat increased with the days of winter, until ramps made their appearance with the melting of the last snows. A few more weeks brought spotted-leaf and other plants edible as greens. Then slowly expanded the variety of food, wild and domestic, until autumn brought forth abundantly from out her lavish horn.

Ramps are a variety of wild leeks, apparently peculiar to the region of Webster County. They give the breath, even the perspiration, of the eater a smell that places onions and garlic among the odorless members of the lily family. For several years ramps have been regarded as a rare dish and their health-giving qualities recognized; but in Billy's day they were so common as to command only ordinary respect.

Just after the Civil War, Nancy got a spinning wheel and a loom. She spun wool and flax. For Billy and the boys she wove jeans cloth and made pants; she made shirts and jackets, and she knitted socks. She made a garment commonly known as a "wamus." Gaines Chapman describes it as follows: "A wamus was somewhat like a sweater, but was open all the way down front. There was not a button on it. The front corners were square. Since it was even all around the bottom, and came down to the hips, one could pull the lower corners up to the waist and tie them in a knot. On the back this made a bag in which a considerable load could be carried. I have seen Father come home from hunting with a 'coon or wild

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

turkey in his wamus. Sometimes when he went to feed the horses he carried ears of corn in his wamus."

The boys were allowed one pair of pants each winter. Before spring arrived holes appeared at the knees and sometimes in the seat. Nancy was familiar with the saying: "Patch beside patch is neighborly, but patch upon patch is beggarly."

She and the girls wove linsey and made dresses for themselves. They made towels and tablecloths. They wove blankets. "When the bedclothes begin to get scarce, I get scared," Nancy used to say.

Severity with children may occur as a substitute for ample training in child psychology, or may occur from deficiency of time in which to achieve a necessary result. Through little fault of his own, intuition was about the only source of Billy's understanding of child psychology. On him fell the responsibility of seeing that crops were planted and harvested in season. Moreover, between the extremes of over-seriousness and indifference Billy (as his children were in their maturity) was inclined to lean toward the former. Between the two evils it was probably the lesser.

In Billy's day the husband was by custom the head of the house. Some of his children felt that he emphasized work to the exclusion of play. With the rod of correction he ruled. He found it expedient to tell the children rather than to ask them, and he expected immediate compliance. To them he did not assign undesirable work that he avoided; he "hoed his row" with them. Together they bore the burden and heat of the day. In his absence they learned to work—if not in a spirit of cooperation—then in fear of physical consequences. He probably did not like all of his thirteen children equally well, and his true impressions may not have been always carefully concealed. His administration should be judged by the gross result of his home, his family and their standing in society, and not by specific incidents of his reign.

At least in his earlier years Billy, at times, was inclined to romp when things were going well. He played with the children, wrestled with them, and joined heartily in their glee and laughter. Sometimes he would lie flat on the floor. The older children would catch him by the legs, head and arms and

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

try to hold him down, while he struggled to get up. He romped with Nancy if she would play.

When Mahala was about seven years old and the family lived at Bill's Knob, it was part of her work to drive home the cows in the evening. The family dog went with her. In the woods there were many things that attracted her attention, so that repeatedly she was urged to bring the cows home earlier. The cows should be milked before nightfall. As a further inducement to have Mahala hurry up, Billy one evening proposed to scare her, and hid inside a hollow stump by the roadside. As she came up Billy growled like a bear. Mahala noticed immediately that the dog was not the least excited but walked up to the stump wagging his tail. Mahala knew it was Billy in the stump. As the growls came forth more and more ferociously, she looked into the stump with a sense of curiosity, and said: "Father, what in the world is the matter with you?" Billy came out and explained to Mahala that she would have to hurry up on her errand, and that if he could not induce her to do so by scaring her, he would have to resort to other means.

One spring not long after Billy moved to Point Mountain, he and Currence Chapman built a sugar camp, cut and hauled wood, secured the kettles, and tapped nearly a hundred sugar trees. Maple sugar was part of the self-sufficiency of the home. Mahala was about 16 years old—Mary Ann about ten. It was their work to "make the sugar." Mary Ann helped "attend the kettles," but it fell to Mahala to do most of the work of gathering the sap, and replenishing the fires with wood. They carried home the syrup in buckets at the close of the day's work. Because the "syrup was not ready" to take off the fire, the girls frequently did not reach home until two or three hours after nightfall.

On March 5, Mahala trudged through the snow, from tree to tree, gathering sap. She and Mary Ann were alone at the camp all day. About 8:00 p.m. they came home wet, cold and hungry, with five or six gallons of syrup. Nancy was somewhat engrossed with her niece, Rebecca Mullins and her husband (Marshall Mullins), who had come to "visit with the Chapman family and to get a mess of sugar." The family supper was over, dishes washed, a cold supper being in prospect

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

for the two girls. At least a warm supper was not yet ready for them. Mahala sat down on a chair to warm her feet before the open fireplace, and being in an irritable mood, launched a vigorous complaint about the supper situation, seasoned with remarks about the trend of affairs in general.

Had the girls been idle at the camp, or had other conditions made probable a shortage of sugar for the family during the coming year, Billy could hardly have seen humor in the situation. But the outlook was encouraging; moreover it was Mahala's birthday. Knowing her disposition and some practical psychology, he started a romp that cleared up a clouded atmosphere. Mahala relates it thus:

All at once, Father caught my chair and gave it a whirl to the right which brought me to the floor. Then he seized me to hold me down, and the scuffle was on. I got him down; then both came to our feet, with Mullins hollering: "Hold him, Mahala!" Round and round over the room we scuffled. Everybody was laughing and Father was saying, "It's your birthday." Finally he got so tickled that he got weak; and I shoved him into a corner, caught both his arms and held him there. I said, "Old man, say 'enough.'" He was laughing so, but he said, "I'll give up." Then Mary Ann and I had supper and Mother got the syrup soon boiling and we had a sugar stirring off that night. It was all family fun.

Although Billy was a man severe, the children at times dealt with him quite diplomatically. The girls learned to "pet Father." When he was resting in the field, or was elsewhere at ease, they would sometimes comb his hair, slick his face, examine his hands and in an opportune moment bring forth a request such as this: "Could we go over to Charley Dodrill's Saturday evening and stay until Sunday?" Billy might apply a gentle veto, or he might say, "Well, it will be all right if your Mother can get along without you." With an angle like that in the deal, Nancy was confronted in Billy's absence with this proposition: "Father said we could go to Charley Dodrill's Saturday night if it would be all right with you." If the proposal had Billy's approval, it was considered about 99 per cent certain of attainment.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Billy was always interested in having his children attend school. When he moved to Point Mountain the nearest school was at the foot of the mountain, on Bergoo Creek, two miles away. Children could not travel that distance and attend school with any degree of satisfaction. Billy was probably more instrumental than any other person in securing the first schoolhouse at Lower Point Mountain. For one thing he had more children than any of his neighbors. And the fact that nearly a fourth of his life he served as justice of the peace would hardly indicate that he was unfamiliar with administrative influence. The board of education agreed to the establishment of a school on condition that the parents erect the building, furnish the fuel and build the fires. In the summer of 1878, men in the neighborhood erected the building. They were William G. Hamrick, B. Franklin Hamrick, George D. Hamrick, Isaac Mullins, Preston Mullins and Billy. The building was called "Log Cabin," or "Cabin." It was more than a mile from the Chapman home, on the road to Addison (Webster Springs), and was located in the hollow about 175 yards below the present Lower Point Mountain school.

Log Cabin, high up on the mountain and in the woods, was erected by exertion of a little political influence and by honest manual labor. It was emblematical of the ambition of pioneers to encourage learning and to elevate the next generation to a higher civilization. In appearance it resembled the schoolhouse opposite the mouth of Wolf Pen Run, the first schoolhouse in Webster County of which W. C. Dodrill had knowledge.⁴⁵ Crude structure that Log Cabin was, a description of it is meritorious.

The building was about 14 feet long and 11 feet wide. Running north and south across the roof was a ridge pole about 8 feet above the ground. The door was on the side of the building facing the East, and the Chapman farm. At the north end of the building was the fireplace, four feet long and two feet deep. It was built in a frame of small logs and lined inside with stones and mortar made of mud. An excavation of ground about 14 inches deep was necessary at that end of the building. Chinks between logs in the wall were filled with long sticks of wood, moss, and mortar made of mud.

⁴⁵ *Moccasin Tracks*, pp. 105-107.

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

The door and roof were made of oak clapboards. The door lacked one log of extending to the eave of the roof. When a man entered this pioneer institution of learning, he made a bow of the head, if not in reverence for Point Mountain's first schoolhouse, then to prevent his head from contacting the log over the door. Once he had entered the room, he could stand erect, walk about, and forget the bow until he was ready to depart.

Boards half an inch thick ran the width of the door. The door rested on two wooden hinges, which were pins driven into auger holes in logs. These pins had wide heads, with holes therein, so that the weight of the door rested on the lower pin, and was held in place by the upper one. For a latch there was, on the outside of the building, a wooden pin eight inches long stuck into an auger hole at such an angle that the door could be opened only when the pin was removed. The door made a creaking sound when it was opened or closed. The hinges and the eight-inch pin were on the outside of the building and the door swung toward the outside. From inside the building, the door could be held shut with a string.

Around the fireplace were three wooden benches, with no back rests, and no book rests in front. They were simply seats made by splitting a log and putting legs in auger holes near the ends, on the rounded sides. Extending across the width of the room, opposite the fireplace, was a pole with each end stuck into a crack in the wall. In front of this pole was a writing desk eight feet long which was a slab resting on two wooden pins fastened in the wall. Just above the writing desk, and about three feet from the floor, there was a window consisting of six pieces of glass, each eight by ten inches, placed in a parallel crack between two logs. Four or five pupils at the same time could sit on the pole and write on the desk.

On the west side of the room, close to the fireplace, was a window sixteen by twenty inches, containing four panes of glass. On the same side of the room, four feet above the floor, was a bookshelf about five feet long, which was a clapboard held up by pins in the wall. The teacher had no chair or desk.

The first term of school in Log Cabin began in the autumn

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

of 1878, the teacher being Miss Kate Arthur. She had lived at Wheeling, was 21 years old, held a number one teacher's certificate, and received \$25.00 per month. She conducted her school without a watch or any kind of timepiece, presumably on the ground of economy. When the sun shone, it was her guide as to the time of day. But on cloudy days, especially when fog enshrouded Log Cabin, it was not easy to calculate the arrival of four o'clock.

George Chapman recalls that one cloudy evening Bob Hamrick directed Miss Arthur's attention to approaching darkness by pointing out to her how the light from the fireplace was becoming visible on the clapboard roof. Although the teacher dismissed school at once, it was bedtime when the Chapmans, thinly clad, waded through the snow to their home that cold, wintry night. The greatest inconvenience was for George Hamrick's children, who had the farthest to travel, and part of their trail was a sheep path on the mountainside. Sometimes pupils reached home early and sometimes late, according to the efficiency with which their teacher could read from the heavens the time of day.

When school opened in the autumn of 1878, the floor was the ground itself. Late fall rains caused water to enter the room on both sides of the fireplace, and to cover the floor. Between recitations some of the children entertained themselves by dabbling their toes in the water, while resting on the seats. Woe unto the urchin who tripped over the log comprising the doorsill, or otherwise lost his balance! The teacher considered that repairing of the floor was necessary, and dismissed school on that ground. Strong-armed patrons promptly responded to the situation, and by splitting twelve-inch chestnut logs in the center and laying them on the ground, flat side up, a very satisfactory floor was made. The floor was somewhat uneven, but it could be kept dry.

Sixteen pupils were enrolled at Log Cabin during the first term of school. Of the Hamricks there were Mary, Josephine, Viola, James, Harrison, Robert and Rebecca. The Chapmans were Sarah, Mary, Columbia, Gaines, George and Grant. Completing the number were three members of the Mullins family: Isham, Marshall and Elijah.

It was general recognition that the Mullins family was of

FAMILY RECORD.	
MARRIAGES.	MARRIAGES.
William J. M. Chapman and Nancy H. Gregory May the 7 th 1857	Allen B. Channel and Mary S. A. Chapman September the 20 th 1883
William J. Mace and Abigail J. Chapman December the 6 th 1877	J. O'Keefe O'Keefe and Columbia M. Chapman Feb. 1 st 1889
Lawrence C. Chapman and Rebecca L. Arthur July the 16 th 1878	A. Grant and Georgiana White March 18. 1892.
Louise Garrison and Sarah B. Chapman November the 2 nd 1880	
Lawrence C. Chapman and Nancy C. Eastell August 14 1881	

Early Chapman marriages—a page from the family Bible. Marriages from 1877 to 1883 are recorded in the handwriting of Billy Chapman. Gaines Chapman recorded the marriage of Columbia, and that of Grant.

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

Indian extraction. They frequently showed more skill in physical combat than in laying up for themselves treasures upon earth. During the second term of school at Log Cabin the family was represented by Jack, Mary, Jake, Nancy and Simon. Before the third term opened the family left Point Mountain. Other pupils who at some time attended school at Log Cabin were of the Hamricks: Charles, Wade, Henry, Ballard and Anzina. Of the Gregory family there were Currence, Bennett and Mary. John R. Chapman also attended the school.

Since education in school, as in the home, was considered akin to physical action, a long switch in the corner was part of the scholastic paraphernalia. Gaines estimates that he averaged a whipping a year in Log Cabin, which must have been rather a low average comparatively speaking. A facetious observer said that there was nothing between pupils and the blue sky except clapboards and the teacher's switches. Beginning about 1880 Sunday School was held in Log Cabin.

The teacher at Log Cabin in 1879 was Dr. M. H. Dyer;⁴⁶ in 1880, Mollie Hickman; in 1881, J. Sylvester McGuire; and 1882, David Henry Hamrick. Each of these terms was three months in length. A new frame building was erected at public expense. Arnold Mollohan Hamrick, the contractor, was expected to have the new building completed before the term began in 1883, but he did not. J. S. McGuire began a term of four months in 1883, teaching the first half of it in Log Cabin, and the last half in the new building. Shortly thereafter John W. Gregory, on whose land Log Cabin was located, removed the building and included the site in a small field he cleared.

In 1884 the teacher at Lower Point Mountain school (held in the new frame building) was Luther Adam Dodrill. For ten years, beginning in 1885, terms were for four or five months. Beginning in 1885, John William Arthur taught two consecutive terms. In 1887, the teacher was Jack Lair; in 1888, L. A. Dodrill; in 1889, Mary Ann Hamrick; in 1890, L. A. Dodrill; in 1891, Gaines Chapman; in 1892, Addison McLaughlin Grimes; in 1893, J. Frank Rose; in 1894, Gaines

⁴⁶ Dates preceding names of teachers refer to the autumn in which school began.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Chapman; and in 1895, James McClellan Dodrill. Church services and Sunday School were held in the Lower Point Mountain schoolhouse.

The last and shortest distance Billy moved was in 1879 when he and his family left the head of Coal Bank Run and occupied the house he built on the Chapman farm, a half mile away.⁴⁷ This move was on the same farm to a new house. Billy enlarged the house in the fall of 1886 adding a portion known as the "New House." The house as enlarged still stands and is the home of C. Lee Bonner. It is located at the head of Granddaddy Run, a stream so named before Billy first moved to Point Mountain. One should note that by 1879 the tendency of the older children to marry and move away, caused the number of Billy's children at home to become somewhat static.

The fifteen years Billy spent on Point Mountain may be considered as a unit. When he moved there the farm was becoming a wilderness of brush and briars. With the farm he secured neither house nor barn. He built a house at the head of Coal Bank Run. At the time of his death he had about 100 acres of land in his fields, and two or three times that much uncleared land. At times he had as many as five horses, 25 hogs, 20 cattle and 60 sheep. He kept hives of bees. Five stables and barns he built. He was the first man on Point Mountain to purchase a buggy, sewing machine, mowing machine and hay rake. Once he said to Nancy that just as they were getting matters arranged, so they could live well, he must die.

Billy served as a school trustee. From June 11, 1886 to May 1, 1887 he was postmaster of the Wodzell post office, located in his home.⁴⁸ He was overseer of the men who built the first wagon road from the Chapman farm to the Wolf Pen schoolhouse on Elk River.⁴⁹ At various times he was overseer in repairing roads in the vicinity where he lived.

⁴⁷ David Gregory, Peter Gregory and John Baughman were employed in the construction of the building.

⁴⁸ See p. 136 below.

⁴⁹ Concerning the road, Gaines says: "I remember well the day Father, with several men, began at the corner of our field, cutting logs and 'grubbing' trees. Charley Dodrill wanted to have the road built past his farm where the road is now, but the old survey was followed which went off the mountain to the Wolf Pen schoolhouse."

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

As roads improved, the Chapman home became a favorite stopping place for visitors traveling to and from the health-giving waters of the Salt Sulphur Spring at Addison (Webster Springs). Visitors usually traveled in buggies in the summertime.

As justice of the peace Billy served three terms of four years each, but not consecutively. In that capacity he carried the title of "Squire." In 1876 Squire Adam G. Hamrick defeated Billy by 12 votes. Billy was defeated in 1884 by eight votes. It appears that successful election years for him were 1868, 1872, 1880 and 1888.

An election held in Webster County in the 'eighties merits a brief description, for politics like the old time religion, has bowed to inevitable change. In the Democratic primary election of 1888 Robert C. Ferrell of Hacker Valley district became the nominee for sheriff by defeating Charles M. Dodrill, "the best known man in Webster County."⁵⁰ Isaac W. Curry, merchant at Addison, was the Republican nominee for sheriff. In Webster County the way of a Republican was hard.

In November 1888, the election of two justices of the peace in Fork Lick district was a triangular affair, with Vincent Hamrick being clearly in the lead and with a close race between Billy Chapman, Republican, and George A. Lynch, Democrat. Leatherwood and Addison were the only voting places in the district. Apparently one could vote at either place, because Billy voted at Addison and Currence Chapman voted at Leatherwood. At Leatherwood, voting was conducted in the schoolhouse located on a hill between Leatherwood Creek and Bergoo Creek, close to the cemetery where William Gregory, the Classleader, is buried. The courthouse in Addison had burned on the night of June 17, and the Baptist church near by had become an improvised courthouse where the election and court were held.

The race between Curry and Ferrell was the one of chief interest in the county. Official ballots had not come into use. The voter wrote on a piece of paper the names of those for whom he voted, and the names of the respective offices sought. Paper in those days was somewhat scarce. A voter might tear a sheet from his daybook, and thus supply his

⁵⁰ W. C. Dodrill, *Moccasin Tracks*, p. 131.

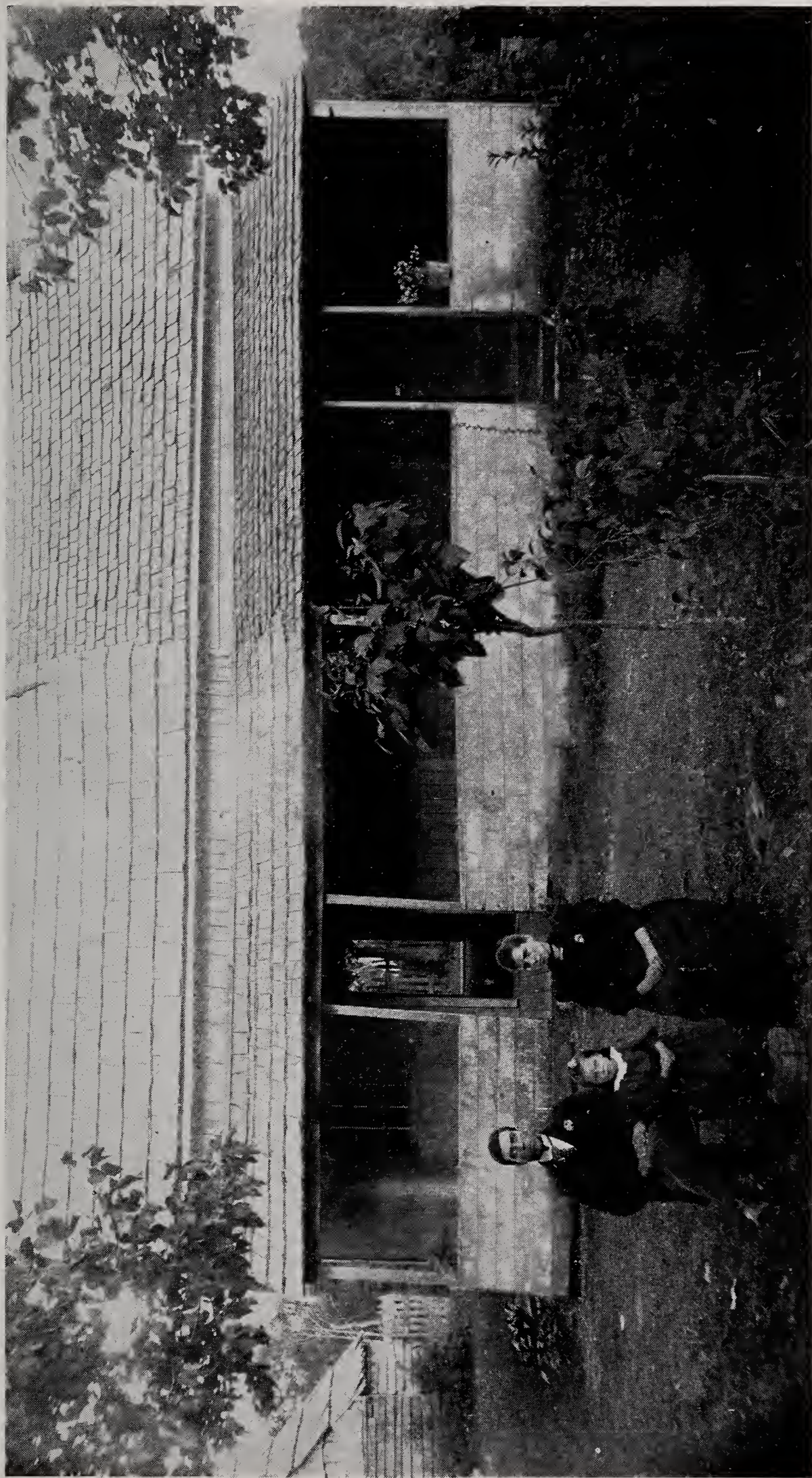
THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

neighbor with paper for a ballot. Sometimes candidates, or henchmen, accommodated their clientele by keeping a writing tablet within convenient reach. There was no objection to a candidate (at the polls or elsewhere) preparing a ballot for a voter on request.

It would be interesting to narrate at some length the procedure Curry used in the campaign of 1888. Space permits only one example of his plan. At his own expense he secured printed ballots, about three inches wide and eight inches long, listing all the offices of interest to local voters. With a single exception, there was after each office a dotted line on which the voter could write the name of a candidate. On the ballot, at the head of the county ticket, appeared the office of sheriff, followed by the name of the donor of the ballot, printed in type large enough to exclude sufficient space to write the name of Ferrell. These ballots were made easily available to voters. Some voters, indifferent to the race for sheriff or only lukewarm about it, preferred to use Curry's ballot than to prepare a ballot for the sole purpose of voting for Ferrell.

During the night after the election votes were counted in the Baptist church, a dimly lighted structure symbolizing unity of church and state. In the fore part of the church were the tally clerks, J. William Arthur, Republican, Walter Stanard, Democrat, and other officials. In front of the tables on which the clerks worked, sovereign voters of democracy surged and crowded each other. Curry's election as sheriff was due largely to his supporters in Fork Lick district, well represented in the mob of democracy, from whom came an exultant shout when a vote was read for him. Election officials found it necessary to suppress commotion in the church. Some of Curry's most boisterous supporters were willingly or otherwise removed from the building. A silent partner listened to the reading of ballots and signaled to them from the church when a vote was recorded for Curry. In the darkness of the great outdoors rose the same exultant shout, occasionally accompanied by the rumbling of an empty whisky barrel intentionally rolled downhill over rocks near the church. There was efficiency and fun in elections—the American way.

Throughout the counting of ballots the church was filled with men milling about, occasionally pressing up to the tables



GRANT AND ANNA CHAPMAN WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, NETTIE, about 1896. This house on Point Mountain was the last home of Billy and Nancy Chapman.

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

to read the trend of the election from the sheets of the clerks. The interest of the Chapmans was primarily in Billy's last election as justice of the peace. Billy was at the church. Gaines Chapman attained a position directly in front of the desk used by Arthur, watched the tally, and reported occasionally to Billy. About 4:00 a.m. the count at Addison ended with Lynch being two votes in the lead. The arrival of returns from Leatherwood gave Billy a successful margin of about a half-dozen votes in the district.

It was in the first year of his fourth term that Billy died, having served eight months. He was well known as one whose judgements were wise and fair. It is said that only two of his decisions were ever appealed to the circuit court, and that both were there sustained. During the three terms much of his official business was transacted in his home, but during his last eight months his business in the main was conducted in the courthouse in Addison.

Light may be given on the character and disposition of Billy by relating some of the events that occurred during the last three weeks of his life. In early August 1889, George Chapman, a young man of 18 years, was in Randolph County working on the farm owned by Jake Hamrick, ten miles from the Chapman home. A drummer and his negro driver, at the end of a day's journey, stopped at the Hamrick home to spend the night. The driver was suffering from a type of bloody flux of a severe nature. Nine days thereafter George and Hinkle Hamrick, a cousin of Jake, became sick with the disease.

On Wednesday, George quit work. Jake wanted to send for Billy and Nancy, but George did not consent until Saturday evening. Saturday night must have been a restless one for Nancy and Billy. About 1:30 a.m. they left for the Hamrick home, arriving there at sun-up Sunday, August 11. At noon Dr. David Gibson visited George and Hinkle, and pronounced these as the first cases of real flux he had seen since he served as a physician in the Union army during the Civil War. Billy stayed with George until Monday morning—Nancy until Tuesday morning. George recovered, and although was a man of unusual physical endurance, it is probable that the disease left him with some permanent handicaps. He says of flux: "I'd pity a hound that had it."

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Unfortunately during the late summer and early autumn several persons contracted the disease. Among them were Jake and his sister, Ellen Hamrick, Dr. Gibson, Currence Chapman, Sarah, Nancy and Billy. The virulence of the disease seemed to decrease with time, but Billy became sick from it less than two weeks after he was at the Hamrick home. On Friday, August 23, he went to Addison where, as justice of the peace, he probably had official duties. During the day he complained of being sick. On Saturday during the forenoon on the Chapman farm Billy and Gaines put up hay, which Gaines had cut the day previous. There were about two acres of oats cradled and ready to stack. Early Saturday afternoon Gaines pitched the oats and Billy built the stack. When the stack was finished, about 3:00 p.m., Billy said that he was not well, and he told Gaines they would quit work for the day.

On Sunday morning, according to his custom, Billy attended church at Lower Point Mountain. During the services, in which experiences were related, he made a talk long remembered by persons present. The fact that it was his last appearance at the church doubtlessly strengthened the thread of memory. The content of the talk must have contained some of the frankness of one who suspected that he was approaching the western shore. In the talk he quoted one or more stanzas of the song beginning thus:

I love Thy kingdom Lord
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Sunday afternoon Billy spent in bed, with increasing evidence that he was a sick man. On Monday Gaines went to the field alone, and Billy spent the day about the house. Tuesday found Billy much worse, but he did not want a doctor. He said he would "never get over this" and hence it would be futile to call a doctor. But Nancy and Gaines insisted that Dr. John Morgan McGlaughlin, the physician of most favorable repute, be secured, and Billy consented. Tuesday at midnight Gaines located Dr. McGlaughlin at Addison, but because of attention to other patients it was daylight on Wednesday when he reached Billy's bedside. The patience and skill of the physician could not turn the tide. Because Billy was

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

affected by what is known as tobacco heart, Dr. McGlaughlin did not find it advisable to administer certain medicines sometimes used in the treatment of flux. Billy took other medicines which he could not retain, but vomited them. By noon Saturday, Dr. McGlaughlin reached the conclusion Billy had announced earlier in the week—namely, that he would “never get over this.”

During the last week of his life Billy at times suffered agony, so intense, that again was heard the power of that penetrating voice that had been sovereign on the mountain realm. But in one thing was he blessed, for while consciousness continued, his mind remained absolutely clear and his sense of reason was unclouded.

On Friday or Saturday Rev. B. B. Brooks visited Billy. During the visit Billy said his only regret was that he had not been baptized by immersion.⁵¹ Rev. Brooks talked with him and read from the Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 14, beginning with those familiar words, “Let not your heart be troubled.” Thereafter Billy said: “It is all right. I see my way clear now.”

On Saturday afternoon Billy wanted his will drawn up and signed. He was too weak to prepare it. Strangely enough Dr. McGlaughlin had never written a will and for once must have realized that he was not learned in the law. By chance there was in the house a form of a will which Gaines located, and this form was filled out.

The will, as preserved in the Office of the County Clerk of Webster County, is as follows:

WM. F. M. CHAPMAN TO WILL⁵²

I, Wm. F. M. Chapman, of the County of Webster, State of W. Va., make this my last will and testament hereby revoking and annulling any and all wills heretofore made or pur-

⁵¹ Nancy told Columbia about this incident. Columbia did not reach the Chapman home until three hours after Billy had passed away.

⁵² The will is recorded in vol. 2, pp. 18-19. The probate record is as follows: State of West Virginia, Webster County Court Clerk's office Nov. 5th, 1889. In Vacation.

On this 5th day of November 1889, came J. M. McGlaughlin, Isaac N. Dodrill and John W. Gregory, the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing last Will and Testament of Wm. F. M. Chapman, who had a known place of residence

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

porting to have been made by me disposing of what property I may own at my death as follows:

1st. I direct that my funeral expenses and just debts be paid.

2nd. I will and bequeath to my wife, Nancy H. Chapman, one gray horse and one iron gray mare two years old, and fifty head of sheep, four head of cows (Brook, Silk, Spot and Beady), all of the hogs, all the household and kitchen furniture except the organ, but is to have the use of the organ as long as she lives, four hundred dollars in land notes on my son, C. C. Chapman, and all my real estate as long as she remains my widow, excepting the timber on one hundred acres for which A. W. Miller has a contract for same.

3rd. I will and bequeath to my son, John R. Chapman, two spotted steer calves.

4th. I will and bequeath to my son, Nathaniel G. Chapman, one rifle gun, one red cow named "Rose," four yearling heifers and one red steer calf.

5th. I will and bequeath to my son, Alvin H. Chapman, one silverine case watch and chain.

6th. I will and bequeath to my son, Currence C. Chapman, eighty dollars worth of land notes due me from my son, Currence C. Chapman, it being the last payments for the lands conveyed from me to him.

7th. I will and bequeath to my son, Charles H. Chapman, one red two-year-old heifer.

8th. I will and bequeath to my son, Adam L. Chapman, one red yearling heifer.

in Webster County, West Virginia, and made oath that they did see the Testator cause his name to be signed to this will and all three present, at the same time that they heard him publicly declare the said will to be his last will and testament, and at the time of his causing his name to be signed and acknowledging said last will to best of their apprehension was of sound mind and disposing memory, and that they subscribed their names as witnesses to this will in his presence, at his request and in the presence of each other, and thereupon said last will is admitted to probate and ordered to be recorded.

C. W. BENEDUM, Clerk,
Webster County Ct., W. Va.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

WEBSTER COUNTY COURT CLERK'S OFFICE NOV. 5, 1889.

The foregoing Will and Certificate of Probate is this day admitted to record in said office.

Teste:

C. W. BENEDUM, Clerk.

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

9th. I will and bequeath to my daughter, Emma V. Chapman, one organ at my wife's death.

10th. I will and bequeath to my sons, George W. Chapman and Addison G. Chapman, one hundred dollars each to be paid out of the real estate at my wife's death.

11th. I will and direct that the remainder of my real estate be equally divided among the remaining heirs, namely as follows: My daughters, Mahala J. Mace, Sarah R. Conrad, Mary S. A. Channell, Columbia M. Cogar and Emma V. Chapman, and my sons, Currence C. Chapman, Nathaniel G. Chapman, John R. Chapman, Charles H. Chapman, Adam L. Chapman and Alvin H. Chapman.

12th. I hereby appoint and constitute my son, Currence C. Chapman, as the executor of this my last will and testament. Witness my hand and seal.

WM. F. M. CHAPMAN, (SEAL)

The foregoing will of the above named Wm. F. M. Chapman was this 31st day of August, 1889, signed by Wm. F. M. Chapman and by him acknowledged as his will in the presence of us all being present at the time of said signing and acknowledgment and at his request we here subscribed our names as witnesses thereto in his presence and in the presence of each other.

Witnesses:

J. M. McGLAUGHLIN
ISAAC N. DODRILL
JOHN W. GREGORY

* * * *

The validity of Billy's signature to the will should rest upon observance of two or more disinterested men as witnesses. Isaac N. Dodrill and Dr. McGlaughlin were present, and a messenger was sent to bring John W. Gregory for the third witness. Before Gregory came Billy lapsed into a state of unconsciousness from which the doctor said he would never revive of his own accord. Had the will been signed it is believed that no more would Billy have known things terrestrial. The doctor inquired whether by artificial means he should try to restore consciousness for the purpose of signing the will. On the request of the family restoration was under-

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

taken. To the lips of the patient certain substances were applied and he was made to inhale from a bottle.

The intent and effect of the treatment was to cause the patient to go into a sound sleep which should last for an hour. This hour the doctor himself slept, for his work had been so constant that he was almost a stranger to sleep. When the hour was ended, Gaines called the doctor in accordance with his request. The doctor applied certain medicine which had the purpose and effect of restoring the patient to consciousness. Billy wished to sign his will and, in preparation therefor, he was raised up and the docket book was laid in his lap to support the will. He tried to sign the will, but was so weak that he succeeded in making only a part of the letter "W." Billy advised that under such conditions it would be legal for the doctor to sign the will and this the doctor did.

These things occurred about four or five o'clock Saturday afternoon. Dr. McGlaughlin left the Chapman home, giving instruction to recall him, should the patient give any indication of recovery. At least one person was always by the bedside of the patient to keep away flies, for it was in the days when screens were to those country folk unknown. One event of Saturday evening was especially implanted in the minds of those at the Chapman home. In a moment of comparative solitude, Billy, with a clear mind, and a voice weakened and distorted in volume, but true to harmony, sang a stanza or two of "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

Came Sunday morning, September 1, when the head of the family, the ruler of a little realm, was in part to sum up his own account, was to give his final words of advice, and say good-bye to those for whom he had given a life of toil. Some observations were general. When Isaac Dodrill came downstairs, Billy remarked, "Isaac was always a good boy." He called attention to the sunshine and said, "Thank the Lord I get to go home on Sunday." Said he in his homely but sincere way: "I'll soon be with the old man Gregory (affectionate name for Nancy's father, William G. Gregory), Abraham, Isaac and all the other good people." He had hope in his death.

Billy lay on an old-fashioned bed built rather high above the floor. He called Nancy to his bedside, held her hand, and reviewed some of the events of their lives. Life to him ap-

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

peared as a vapor which was vanishing just as his material possessions were becoming sufficient for an easier livelihood for himself and family. He said, "You and I were married when we were almost children." And he told her that he had faithfully followed his vow to be true to her; that whatever were his faults, this virtue he had kept. He said that it was natural for a widow to marry again; that he had willed to her nearly all of his property and was leaving her in a fair condition financially. He pointed out how a second marriage might dissipate those savings leaving her destitute—and he gave a specific example: "Remember old Aunt Nancy Hamrick."⁵³ He expressed to Nancy his reluctance to leave her.

Mahala, Mary, Columbia and Grant were at their respective homes or elsewhere, not at the Chapman home. Billy did not request their presence because he said the grief to them would be heavy to bear without adding to it by visual observance. But most of his children were present and, with the exception of Gaines, he called them to his bedside one by one in order of their birth. The advice he gave, linking past and present, was expressed in a cool, calm, and sympathetic manner, and was in some cases quite personal. First of the children called to the bedside was Currence who, among other things, was told that he was not sufficiently appreciative of his wife and children, and that he should be kinder to them. This may not have been so much an accusation that Currence was severe with his family, as a condemnation of a custom, which if Billy ever practiced, he did not approve.

Billy talked with the children about some things he considered fundamental in a good life. He spoke of Nancy, told the children to visit her and to do what they could to make her last days her best. The calmness of the departing father continued without a tear except, when lying on his side at the edge of the bed, he put his arm around Harmon, his five-year-old son, and said, "Oh, God, how I hate to give up my baby in this wicked world." He called Harmon "another of my favorites."

Gaines thought that Billy had overlooked him but last of

⁵³ Nancy Dobbins married Big Isaac Hamrick, and after his death she married John Hammons. Hammons dissipated the estate, and Aunt Nancy died on Birch River in want. Information, courtesy of W. Frank Hamrick.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

all Billy called him to his bedside. To Gaines he spoke only of the future. Among other things he said: "Now, Gaines, I am going away. I am leaving your Mother, the place [the farm] and these little children in your care. You take charge of the place and carry on as I have. You know how widows are treated. Stand by your Mother. She can't make these little boys obey. Take them out and make them work and make them obey their Mother. Be good to my horses. Stay with your Mother until you are 21 and then if it is suitable stay longer with her."⁵⁴

Thus having finished consultation with the family, Billy turned his face toward the wall, and fell into a coma for about an hour. He awoke, and for the first time was unable to turn himself over. He said to Nancy, "Death is not what you think it is." At his request she helped him to turn, and while in the process he looked up to her and said, "I'm gone." He put his hand under his head, and then came faintly his final words, "My God, my God." Death came about 9:00 a.m. The body was laid to rest in the cemetery on the Chapman farm, Billy's grave being the first.

At the bedside of his father Gaines promised to do the things requested of him, and he faithfully carried out his promise. He was the only one of Billy's sons to remain at home until he was 21 years old. Coming years brought to him moments that try the souls of men. He saw his mother pass away, his baby die, and finally he was by the side of Kate, his wife, in her last hours. But through it all Gaines says that the family review his father conducted on Sunday morning, September 1, 1889, was the most solemn occasion he ever witnessed.

Such was the sojourn of the 53 years of Billy Chapman. As a schoolboy, a youth working a considerable part of a year for a pony, a fugitive from bushwhackers, a farmer, a justice of the peace—all along the line he accepted the challenge of life. Every dime he owed, he would pay. He was an upright man, take him for all in all. Concentration of power often promotes efficiency. If Billy was somewhat tyrannical with

⁵⁴ By this Billy meant to request Gaines to work without compensation until he became of age, after which arrangements might be made for suitable remuneration if he remained on the farm.

THE MOUNTAIN MONARCH

his family, at least he managed with sufficient skill to increase their educational and material assets. Their best interests he had at heart.

CHAPTER V

NANCY CHAPMAN'S LAST YEARS

The Lord will help me.—A MOTHER'S FAITH.

Men's customs differ; different people honor different practices; but all honor the maintenance of their own peculiar ways.—PLUTARCH, *Lives*.

After the death of Billy Chapman in 1889 there remained to his widow, Nancy Chapman, less than a half-dozen years. During this time she was the nucleus of the Chapman family. She maintained a home for the younger children and kept in contact with the older children as much as she could. Ever since Sarah and Mary had married and settled in the vicinity of Valley Head, 25 miles away, Nancy went on horseback to visit them once or twice a year. These visits she continued as long as she lived.

Nancy tried to prevent the Chapman farm from taking on a declining appearance, a characteristic that too often accompanied a period of widowhood. Among other things she employed John McCartney, a stone mason, to construct a good cellar.

Had Nancy possessed a less dynamic personality and been without the responsibilities of a mother, she might well have rented the farm, removed to town, and indulged herself in her declining years in ease and indolence. But it was not so with her. She stayed on Point Mountain. She married again.

On October 15, 1891, at the age of 48, she became the wife of Charles McClure Dodrill,⁵⁵ a widower who had reared his family on a farm five miles from the Chapman home. On their honeymoon they spent a week in Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Maryland, and vicinity. This was the only time in Nancy's life that she was more than a hundred miles from the summit of Point Mountain.

⁵⁵ Records, Office of County Clerk, Webster County. Charles M. Dodrill first married Margaret Given. Their children were, Samuel, Isaac, Angeline, Virginia, Elizabeth, Luther, James and Walter.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

It is not easy to evaluate the tendencies that resulted in this marriage. Certainly, the experience of two winters of outdoor responsibilities on a Point Mountain farm could hardly be expected to inflate for Nancy the delights of single blessedness. It is for each generation to weigh—in its own wisdom, by constantly changing standards—the proper relation between widows and widowers, who exhort their children to new accomplishments, but who themselves mutually turn back to live again “the days that wuz, the days that wuz.”

About the time of his second marriage Charles Dodrill was “the best known man in Webster County.”⁵⁶ He had served in the West Virginia legislature⁵⁷ from January 12, 1881 to March 15, 1881; and from January 11, 1882 to March 28, 1882. He had served as a member of the county court of Webster County, as sheriff, president of the board of education in Fork Lick district, and he bore the title of “Judge” Dodrill. He was a leading orator of many a Fourth of July celebration at Addison; and his wit had almost as much popularity as his name. W. C. Dodrill says that if Charles had had the advantages of an education he would have succeeded in any profession.

At the time of his marriage to Nancy, Charles had much goods laid up for many years. Several qualities led to his successful accumulation of wealth. Not least among them was the consistency by which his eye measured with precision—the depth of a dime. We must not forget that Nancy was a daughter of Rebecca Sands, and that while she inherited many of the fine qualities of the Classleader, it was possible for her to become provoked. Nor was it necessary to nurse her wrath to keep it warm.

We would not expect, and certainly Charles and Nancy did not suppose, that a mature marriage, such as theirs, could rest upon the flimsy, and yet firm foundation, of the frivolities

⁵⁶ W. C. Dodrill, *Moccasin Tracks*, p. 131.

⁵⁷ *Journal of the W. Va. House of Delegates*, 16th sess., 1881. Dodrill was elected from the Fifth Delegate district consisting of the Counties of Nicholas, Clay and Webster. He was a member of the following standing committees: Elections and Privileges, Taxation and Finance, and Roads and Internal Navigation.

In January 1897, Dodrill took his seat in the legislature as a delegate from Webster County, and was assigned to the Immigration and Agricultural Committee of the House.

NANCY CHAPMAN'S LAST YEARS

of youth. Nancy could bear his companionship part of the time and his name all the time, but she was too honest to deny that the affections of her heart hovered about the memory of a husband who had married her when she was 14 years old, and who was the father of her thirteen children. With mutual fairness to Charles, let us remember that while time may mellow the disposition of a man, it is not in the eventide of life that he sighs like a furnace, with a woeful ballad made to his mistress' eyebrow. To their common credit we must note that their marriage lasted until death.

The will of Billy Chapman shows that Nancy should have nearly all of his real estate as long as she remained his widow. This estate eventually should be divided equally among eleven of his children, with certain financial compensation to George and Grant. Nancy bought from the older heirs their interests in the farm, sold part of the farm, and arranged to deed about 65 acres of it to John, Charles, Adam and Harmon respectively, on condition that each of them should pay to Emma the sum of \$50.00. Nancy expected the younger children to remain on the farm, and she wanted them to have a considerable portion of the personal property.

Nancy had Gaines Chapman to divide the farm into four parts of about 65 acres each. He borrowed a compass and chain, and surveyed the land according to her request. He also wrote the deed, which she intended to sign someday when she was over at his home on a visit. Gaines could take her acknowledgment since he was a notary public.

During the middle of the 'nineties Wesley and Columbia Cogar lived on Point Mountain, an eighth of a mile from the Chapman home. In early December, 1894, Columbia was visiting Nancy who was not feeling well, and lay down to rest. When Nancy came out of the bedroom she said: "Columbia, your Pa came and kissed me on the cheek." Of course Columbia thought her mother had been asleep and dreaming; but Nancy said: "I was **not** asleep, and I can still feel the kiss on my cheek."

About December 31, Nancy became ill with what is now believed to have been appendicitis. Dr. McGlaughlin and Dr. Wilson Johnson were called to her bedside, but they were unable to remedy the ailment, if indeed they knew there was

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

a remedy. At least they could reduce the intensity of pain by administering shots in the arm and await results that could not be far off.

The first days of 1895 brought a realization of this condition. Through it all Nancy did not seem to be afraid, nor did she speak of dying until January 2. While the doctors and others were in the dining room at lunch, Nancy noticed that Columbia could not keep back the tears, and she said: "Now Columbia, don't be fretting. I am going to ask the doctor if there is any chance of my dying, and if so, it is all right. I know now why your Pa came and kissed me on the cheek that day. He wants me to be with him. I would like to stay with my friends here, but it will be more joyful to be with those on the other shore."

Nancy consulted Dr. McGlaughlin who declined to be definite on her condition. Nancy said: "Tell me, for I am not excited. I have some business to arrange, and I want **you** to write my will, as you wrote Billy's will." McGlaughlin replied: "You have 99 chances to live." When he started to the barn to get his horse, Columbia had instructed Grant to accompany him and ask for the truth. The doctor told Grant he would not say that anyone was going to die, but that it was best to stay on the safe side, and have Dr. Johnson write Nancy's will that night, January 2.

About 6:00 p.m. Nancy asked Gaines to prepare her will. He called her attention to the fact that the deed he had prepared for dividing the farm among the four youngest boys had not been signed or acknowledged by her. He asked Dr. Johnson to write her will, while he went to his home, a mile away, to fetch the deed. Dr. Johnson said he did not know how to write a will. Gaines prepared a form, which the doctor filled out according to Nancy's requests. The will was ready to sign when Gaines returned with the deed. The will as preserved in the Office of the County Clerk of Webster County is as follows:

Woodzell, W. Va.

Jan. 2nd, 1895

NANCY H. DODRILL TO WILL⁵⁸

I, Nancy H. Dodrill of the County of Webster, State of

⁵⁸ The will is recorded in vol. 2, pp. 88-89.

NANCY CHAPMAN'S LAST YEARS

W. Va., make this my last will and testament hereby revoking and annulling any and all wills heretofore made or purporting to have been made by me disposing of what property I may own at my death as follows:

1st. I direct that the note for two hundred dollars against A. Grant Chapman be collected when due and applied to the payment of my funeral expenses and my just debts and the remainder, if any, divided equally among Geo. W., John R., Chas. H., Adam L., Emma V., and Harmon Chapman; and if the sum is not sufficient to settle my indebtedness the deficit is to be made good by John R. and Harmon A. Chapman equally.

2nd. I will and bequeath to each of my children here mentioned, Mahala Jane Mace, Currence C. Chapman, Sarah R. Conrad, Mary A. Channell, N. Gaines Chapman, A. Grant Chapman, Columbia Cogar, the sum of one dollar.⁵⁹

3rd. I will and bequeath to my daughter, Columbia Cogar, my sewing machine, spinning wheel, what carded rolls I possess, one blanket, one of the twin beehives and half of my clothes.

4th. I will and bequeath to my son, Geo. W. Chapman, one red heifer calf, one red steer calf, one bedstead, mattress, bedclothes and two feather pillows, one of the twin beehives.

5th. I will and bequeath to my son, John R. Chapman, one bay mare 4 yrs. old, one bedstead, mattress, bedclothes and two feather pillows, half the farm implements, two beehives, one dozen fruit jars, one red cow and calf, two hogs, half of the hay, corn and fodder, the half-bushel iron kettle, one men's saddle and sheep skin, one album.

6th. I will and bequeath to Chas. H. Chapman one bedstead, mattress, bedclothes and two feather pillows, one ewe sheep named "Wild Lamb," two and a half bushels of buckwheat.

7th. I will and bequeath to Adam L. Chapman one bedstead, mattress, bedclothes and two feather pillows, one ewe sheep named "Old Pet," one poker.

8th. I will and bequeath to Emma V. Chapman one green

⁵⁹ The "one dollar" clause was incorporated because Billy Chapman had shared property with each of the older children at the time of their marriage, giving them a "start," as he called it.

Grant owed Nancy about \$550.00 for a tract of land. She gave him the notes, except for the \$200.00 note mentioned in item one of the will.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

bedstead, mattress, one feather mattress (striped cloth), bed-clothes, two feather pillows, half of my books, one dozen fruit jars, half of the dishes, two lamps, oil jugs, small iron wash kettle, brass kettle, one bushel chestnuts, one brass-framed mirror, half of my clothes, one organ according to her father's will, one sidesaddle and sheep skin.

9th. I will and bequeath to Harmon A. Chapman one colt two years old, four beehives, half of the farm implements, one dozen fruit jars, two lamps, oil jugs, one ewe sheep known as "Pet Ewe's Lamb," one spotted cow, one large iron kettle, half of the hay, corn and fodder, three hogs, one red comforter, the house and buildings on his land and all the household furniture remaining after the other bequests are settled.

10th. I hereby appoint Adam G. Hamrick executor of this my last will and testament.

Witness my hand and seal.

NANCY H. CHAPMAN⁶⁰

her x mark

The foregoing will of the above mentioned Nancy H. Dodrill was this 2nd day of Jan. 1895, signed by Nancy H. Chapman and by her acknowledged as her will in the presence of all, we being present at the signing and acknowledgment and at her request we subscribe our names as witnesses thereto in her presence and in the presence of each other.

Witnesses:

WILSON JOHNSON

J. W. GREGORY

LUVERNA HAMRICK

* * * *

After the will was signed, Gaines showed Nancy the deed

⁶⁰ Gaines says: "I always signed Mother's name and had her make her mark. Being so accustomed to signing her name, 'Chapman,' I guess I didn't notice her name as 'Dodrill,' at the top of the will, and wrote it 'Chapman.' I held her hand while she made her mark to sign the will."

The probate record is as follows:

State of West Virginia,

Webster County Court, January 8th, 1895.

A paper writing was this day presented in Court and by the evidence of Dr. Wilson Johnson and Jno. W. Gregory two of the subscribing witnesses thereto proven to be the last will and testament of Nancy H. Chapman Dodrill, deceased.

It further appearing to the court that the said will was by the mistake of said Witness Dr. W. Johnson only signed Nancy H. Chapman, when it should

NANCY CHAPMAN'S LAST YEARS

he had prepared for division of the farm among the four youngest boys. Gaines says: "She asked me if I had written it just as she had instructed me, and I told her it was so. Then she had me sign her name, and I held her hand for her mark."

The will and deed were signed just before midnight and Nancy entered into the last hour of her terrestrial life. She passed away as she had lived—in frank simplicity. Her last words were spoken January 3, about 1:00 a.m., and were addressed to Columbia who, by her bedside, was administering to her wants. Said Nancy, "Now take care,⁶¹ they are coming from the other shore." She requested that her remains be laid to rest in a grave by that of Billy's, and this was done.

Billy lived a little more than 53 years, Nancy a little less than 52. Their thirteen children grew up, married, and all became parents. Only Charles lived fewer years than either of his parents. To Billy and Nancy the family was the center about which their lives revolved. All their children were by some means inspired to an effort to amount to something in the world, achieve something worth-while, and to apply themselves energetically toward that end. Be it said of Billy, that from his humble beginning, he did his best and he did much. As for Nancy, her children arise up and call her blessed.

have been signed Nancy H. Dodrill, she having been the widow of W. F. M. Chapman deceased, and was so known among her neighbors.

It is therefore ordered that the said writing be admitted to probate by the Clerk of this Court as the last will and testament of the said Nancy H. Dodrill, deceased, said witnesses having signed the same in her presence and in the presence of each other and the testatrix having signed in the presence of said witnesses all present at the same time.

A Copy.

Teste: C. W. BENEDUM, Clerk.

State of West Virginia,

Webster County Court Clerk's Office February 1st, 1895.

The foregoing Will together with the order of probate was this day recorded in said office.

Teste: C. W. BENEDUM, Clerk.

Gaines points out a clerical error in reference to the witnesses. He says that Luverna Hamrick was not present, and the witness was Lucinda Hamrick. Lucinda and Susan were sisters of Luverna, and were present. Cf. p. 31 above. The Adam G. Hamrick who was executor of the will, was the husband, not the father, of Lucinda. Squire Adam G. Hamrick was her father. See Mayme H. Hamrick, *The Hamrick and Other Families*, pp. 68-71.

⁶¹"Take care" is an idiom meaning to "stand aside"; or, "that is enough."

PART TWO

THE THIRTEEN CHILDREN

CHAPTER VI

INTRODUCTION TO PART TWO

Rovers we've been.—EMMA.

I have a hope that all will be made clear someday.

—GRANT.

Moral conduct is a mighty big thing; and so is your attitude toward others.—ADAM.

Momentarily, let us imagine we are visiting the home of Billy and Nancy Chapman on Point Mountain at the dawn of the yuletide season, 1877. They have been at the head of Coal Bank Run three or four years. Considerable progress has been made in restoring the farm to a state of productivity. New land has been cleared, a sugar camp established, fences are being built. Billy has ample room for livestock. He and Nancy are settled on the farm where they will spend their last and most prosperous years.

The children are nine in number, ranging in years from one to 19. John Richard is the baby. The outlook is quite encouraging for Billy and Nancy. Their family will be expanded by four more children, three of whom will be born in their new house, construction of which will begin in a few months. There is considerable likelihood that Point Mountain will soon have a public school in operation, the community having to furnish only the building and fuel. And it is fully realized that a seat of learning during the week will be a shelter for public worship on Sunday.

Yes, things are looking better for the monarch on the mountain. Billy is not discouraged because he recently suffered the worst set-back of his whole political career, by losing the race for re-election for justice of the peace by a margin of a dozen votes. He is scarcely past 40, and better days are ahead for him and his family. A favorable moment to take leave on the imaginary visit.

Such was the dawn of the yuletide season when Mahala,

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

oldest of the thirteen children, was married at the age of 19 and moved from the Chapman home to another location on Point Mountain.

Since that event 65 years have elapsed. During the interim the thirteen children moved from Point Mountain, none now live in Webster County, and four are deceased. The thirteen trails the children followed are marked more by contrast than by comparison. Those trails span the length and breadth of the United States, from the east coast to the west, from the northern lakes to the southern gulf.

On the trails of the thirteen children we come in close contact with society of the great middle class of our country as it existed during the last two thirds of a century. To follow carefully the course of this family of thirteen children is to establish acquaintance with social conditions, somewhat strange to the youth of today, but experienced by hundreds of thousands of people who proudly pointed to milestones of progress, moreover to spheres of influence remote from Burma Road and the Rhine frontier. Problems of the common people were experienced by the thirteen children. One by one, from the oldest to the youngest, the activities of the children are here briefly narrated.

CHAPTER VII

MAHALA JANE CHAPMAN

Mahala Jane Chapman was born March 5, 1858, at Leatherwood Creek, near the present site of Bergoo. She lived there until she was four years old. With her parents she lived at Mingo Flats in Randolph County, Whittaker Falls on Elk River, Gauley Mountain, near Leatherwood Creek again, and on Point Mountain.

On Gauley Mountain in 1866 Mahala attended a school taught by her father. The pupils were ten in number, consisting of Mahala, Currence, Sarah, two of Currence Gregory's children,⁶² and five of Benjamin (Kelly Ben) Hamrick's children.⁶³ On Gauley Mountain in 1868 Mahala attended a summer school of two months taught by Isaac Gregory. In 1869 her teacher was Joseph Hannah. Jonathan G. Hamrick taught the school in 1870, and was her last teacher on Gauley Mountain. These were all subscription schools of two or three months in duration. Hamrick, as part of his compensation, lived in the homes of his patrons, rotating weekly from home to home.

During the earlier 'seventies Mahala attended school in a frame building located on a high bank at the mouth of Leatherwood Creek. Henry Moore Dodrill taught a free school of four months there about 1872. He had 44 "scholars" crowded around a Burnside stove in an unfinished building, that could scarcely be made comfortable. Nevertheless, it was a school and represented considerable progress over conditions of the previous decade.

Half the persons attending the school were Hamricks, the following being enrolled: Surrena, Joseph, Naomi, Henry, Rebecca, Nancy, Sanford, Sarah, John, Lewis, Conrad, Harmon, Phoebe, Arnold, Isaac, Adam, Eli, William Grant, and Elmira.

⁶² The two children of Currence Gregory were Adam Hinkle, and John Wesley.

⁶³ The five children of Benjamin Hamrick were Mariah, Arnold Mollohan, Isaac Payton, Adam Jasper, and Diana.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Two Hamricks responded to the name of "Diana" and two to the name of "Mariah."

The Dodrills were William, Nancy, John, Diana, Margaret, Emeline, Sampson, and Delilah. The Chapmans were Mahala, Currence, Sarah, and Mary. The Gregorys were Jess, Elmira, and Margaret. Representing the Barb family were Boliver, Peter, and Tom. Also enrolled were Anna Mace, William Mace, and McCommas Cogar.

In the same building Mahala attended a subscription school of three months taught by Walter B. Stanard, and a free school of four months taught by James M. Hamrick of Braxton County.

Finally, in a little log schoolhouse at the mouth of Bergoo Creek, Mahala attended a free school of four months taught by Wallace Hollister of Glade district. Her attendance at these schools lacked something to be desired. To attend the school Hollister taught, Mahala, Currence and Sarah came two miles down Point Mountain from the Chapman farm (formerly the Henry C. Moore farm), and crossed Elk River in a canoe or boat. When deep snows came Currence and Sarah were obliged to quit school. Mahala for a time stayed at the home of Robert F. Green, worked for her board, and attended school. In March, before the close of the term, she quit school and went home to help make maple sugar—an important part of the year's work. She never had the same teacher for two terms of school.

Mahala went through the **Elementary Spelling Book**, McGuffey's **Spelling Book**, and through McGuffey's readers up to the sixth reader, inclusive. She says: "We schoolgirls were not allowed arithmetic, so figures are not much account to me. I wanted to study Ray's **Arithmetic**, then being used in school, but Father said: 'Mahala, you do not need arithmetic. If you girls learn to spell and write, that will be good enough. You see, your Mother never went to school a day in her life; yet she counts threads on the warping bars and the gears in the loom. She does not need arithmetic.' I explained to Father that someday I might want to teach school. It was in the lean years after the Civil War and I was needed to work at home. Also the claim that Theron Cherry laid to our farm necessitated expense, and Father did not have



MAHALA MACE WITH HER CHILDREN, STANLEY AND BLANE. Photograph taken at Clarksburg, W. Va., about 1909.

MAHALA JANE CHAPMAN

money to educate his oldest girls. Columbia got pretty good schooling. Spelling, reading and writing were all we three oldest girls got."

Mahala, on October 19, 1876, was converted in a protracted meeting, conducted at the mouth of Bergoo Creek in the log house where she had attended school taught by Wallace Hollister. She joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Later she was baptized.

On Thursday, December 6, 1877, Mahala and William Gregory Mace were married. The wedding took place at the Chapman home amid considerable merriment. Although there was no dancing, there was a "big time" with more than a dozen guests to participate in the dinner.

William and Mahala became parents of nine children. Of their descendants now living there are seven children, 26 grandchildren,⁶⁴ and more than a score of great-grandchildren. Elahu, Francis, Gustavus and Roscoe are ministers of the Gospel. They promoted the study of music in communities where they have lived. On farm and in factory they are acquainted with honest work. Stanley worked in a glass factory in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Genevieve took training as a nurse, and practiced that profession in northern West Virginia.

After their marriage William and Mahala lived two years on Point Mountain, near the Chapman home; for nearly three years they lived on the head of Big Run near the Randolph County line, seven miles from the Chapman home. On Elk River above Leatherwood they lived a year.

About 1882 they moved to eastern central Nebraska (probably near Saint Paul) for the purpose of taking a homestead. No suitable location was found, and after two months they moved to what is now Webster Springs, West Virginia. There for ten months William worked on a saw and grist mill for Ben Conrad. The family returned to their former location on Elk River above Leatherwood, and remained two years.

⁶⁴ Grandchildren deceased are:

NAME	BORN	DECEASED
Oliver Russell McAtee	Dec. 17, 1901	July 19, 1903
Elbert Jackson Mace	April 15, 1905	March 10, 1906
Luther Lathem McAtee	March 10, 1918	March 12, 1918

Two children of Elahu and his wife, Nora Marlow, died in infancy and were not named.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

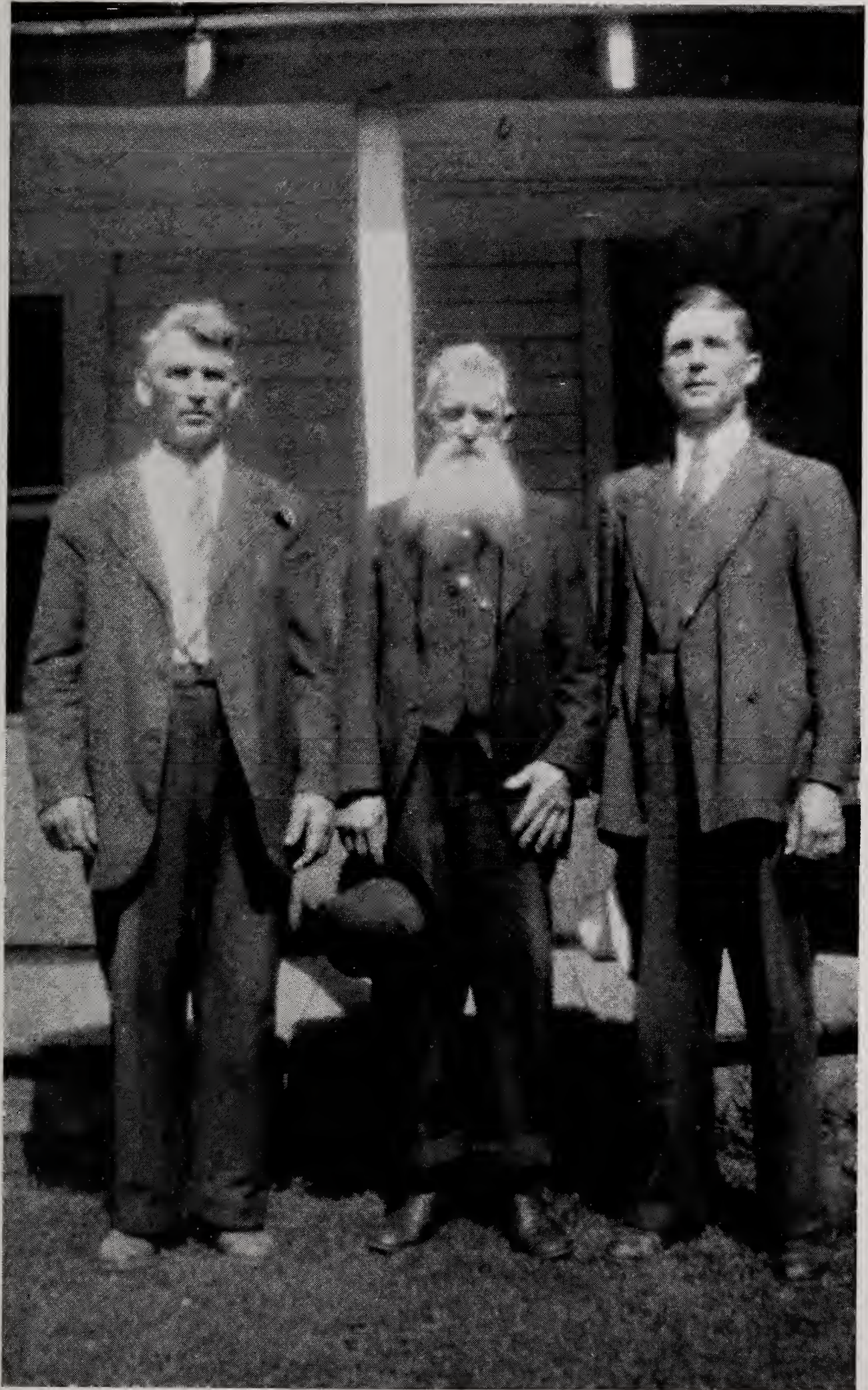
About 1885 the family located on a farm on Big Grassy Creek near Orndoff and this was their home until 1906. For three years Mahala lived at Bakers Run and Hyer in Braxton County. From 1909 to 1925 her home was again on the farm on Big Grassy Creek. For a third of a century Oliver Francis Mace has owned this farm and made his home there.

With the possible exception of Currence, Mahala is the only one of the thirteen children to visit William C. Chapman, father of William Francis Marion Chapman. About 1896 she and William Mace made the visit, a journey of four days on horseback from Addison. In regard to her grandfather and the visit, Mahala wrote: "He and Grandmother were most pleasantly surprised that one of Billy Chapman's daughters had come to visit them. Grandfather took our horses and put them in the barn and fed them. Grandmother prepared a good supper, and how we did talk and visit! Oh, yes, I told Grandfather that both my parents were dead. Of this he was sorry, for he said he was living in hope that Billy would come to visit him someday. He asked me so many questions about Father, his life, his death, and about each of his children. I told him all I knew. Well, they treated us very kind and asked us to come back again. We bade them good-bye and started home."

On May 21, 1925, Mahala and Jesse Van Linden Gregory were married. For nearly eleven years their home was in western Nebraska, at Morrill, eight miles from the State line of Wyoming. About 1936 Mahala came to Linn, West Virginia, and has since lived there at the home of her daughter, Sarah Blane.

Mahala is a link connecting the pioneer period with the present. Possessed of a good memory and with the quality of clarity in narration, she is a living source of information on an era and region about which little is written of actors now gone from the stage. She cannot remain with us much longer. And with her passing a cloud of darkness will cover a chapter of pioneer history of the Chapmans, except for such light as may reflect from written words.

One, who in childhood frequently visited Mahala, wrote: "I remember her most affectionately for her great understanding of children, of their troubles and joys. She would



Left to right: REVEREND O. F. MACE, WILLIAM G. MACE, and REVEREND ROSCOE MACE. Photograph taken at home of Rev. O. F. Mace, May 30, 1938.

MAHALA JANE CHAPMAN

move furniture in the house and play blindman's buff till late at night, pop corn with them, tell funny Irish stories, and keep things lively for them. She was the center of interest in a group of children."

In her active years Mahala was fond of outdoor life. She was interested in cattle, sheep and other livestock. She was not unaccustomed to horse trading. Because she was deeply sympathetic, she visited and assisted the fatherless and widows in their affliction. In these later years, Mahala contents herself with knitting, sewing and other indoor activities. She has prepared an attractive copybook of songs, which she herself illustrated.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

CHILDREN OF
MAHALA JANE CHAPMAN and WILLIAM GREGORY MACE
(MARRIED DEC. 6, 1877)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Elahu Harrow	Sept. 10, 1878	Nora Phidela Marlow March 15, 1902 Estie A. Swihart July 15, 1942	{ Elbert Jackson Nellie Jane William Grant Fannie May Lillie Pearl }	Rt. 3 North Manchester, Ind.	
Nancy Maryetta Mae	March 5, 1880	Thomas Luther McAtee Dec. 12, 1896	Thomas Roscoe Oliver Russell Marie Pearl Olive Blanche Karl Frederick June Arzanna Luther Lathem	Beuna Vista, Rt. 21 Parkersburg, W. Va.	
Oliver Francis	Sept. 2, 1882	Myrtle Ivory Hines Sept. 2, 1913	Emden Chilton Bethel Grey Virginia Murl	Rt. 2, Box 13 Webster Springs, W. Va.	
Clara Belle	June 16, 1885	Elmer Hagan Hathaway May 30, 1905	Lerlyn Virginia Beulah Leona Rea Alice Paul Waitman Edith Mahala Mattie Genevieve Georgia May	Lorain, Ohio	

MAHALA JANE CHAPMAN

CHILDREN OF
MAHALA JANE CHAPMAN and WILLIAM GREGORY MACE
(Continued)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Sarah Blane	June 16, 1885	Bertis Doy Hinzman Dec. 13, 1917		Linn, W. Va.	
Henry Herbert Stanley	Oct. 11, 1890	Jessie Hyer Jan. 23, 1911		Lived in Clarksburg, W. Va.	Nov. 12, 1917
Alpha Gustavus Reed	June 25, 1892	Mae Miller Nov. 23, 1914	William Penn Harry Clay Roberta Gaynell Mildred Leontine Flossie Mae Florence Irene Beatrice Madge	Levi, W. Va.	
Roscoe Conkling	Feb. 26, 1894	Cornelia Dawson Sept. 29, 1914 Ila Ina Thompson April 29, 1934		Call Box 36 Annoore, W. Va.	
Della Genevieve	April 12, 1898	Charles W. Wilkinson Oct. 2, 1923		Lived in Clarksburg and Morgantown, W. Va.	Aug. 18, 1935

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

NOTATIONS

MAHALA JANE CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER VIII

CURRENCE COLUMBUS CHAPMAN

Currence Columbus Chapman was born at Leatherwood Creek, May 28, 1860. In childhood he lived at places named above in reference to his parents and Mahala. He attended schools in the vicinity of his home, and about 1877 he taught a subscription school at Leatherwood.

On July 16, 1878, he married Rebecca C. Arthur; this childless marriage lasted less than a year.

On August 14, 1881, Currence married Nancy Catherine Dodrill, and to them were born 14 children. Currence was a farmer, merchant, constable, and a justice of the peace. He farmed about 25 years on Point Mountain. For 30 years, or more, he was a merchant. He was in the store business on Upper Point Mountain, Lower Point Mountain, near the mouth of Sugar Creek, Jumbo, Weston and Centralia. As constable in Fork Lick district, he was appointed January 4, 1892, to succeed Nelson P. Hamrick for a term which expired January 1, 1893.⁶⁵

Currence was the last of the thirteen children to leave Point Mountain, moving from there about October 1913 to the waters of Back Fork River, a mile above the mouth of Sugar Creek. Thereafter he located at Jumbo on Holly River where he had a farm, store and grist mill.

On August 30, 1913, he sold the Chapman farm on Point Mountain, 202 acres, surface, to George A. Bonner and C. Lee Bonner.⁶⁶ This terminated 40 years of family ownership—a record in the history of Chapman tenure of land.

Currence was appointed justice of the peace for Holly district on April 6, 1915, and served until January 1, 1917.⁶⁷ He filled the unexpired term of John R. Chapman who had resigned. Currence was appointed acting postmaster of the

⁶⁵ Records of County Clerk's Office, Webster County.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

post office at Centralia on September 9, 1924, and served until his successor was appointed on February 7, 1925.⁶⁸

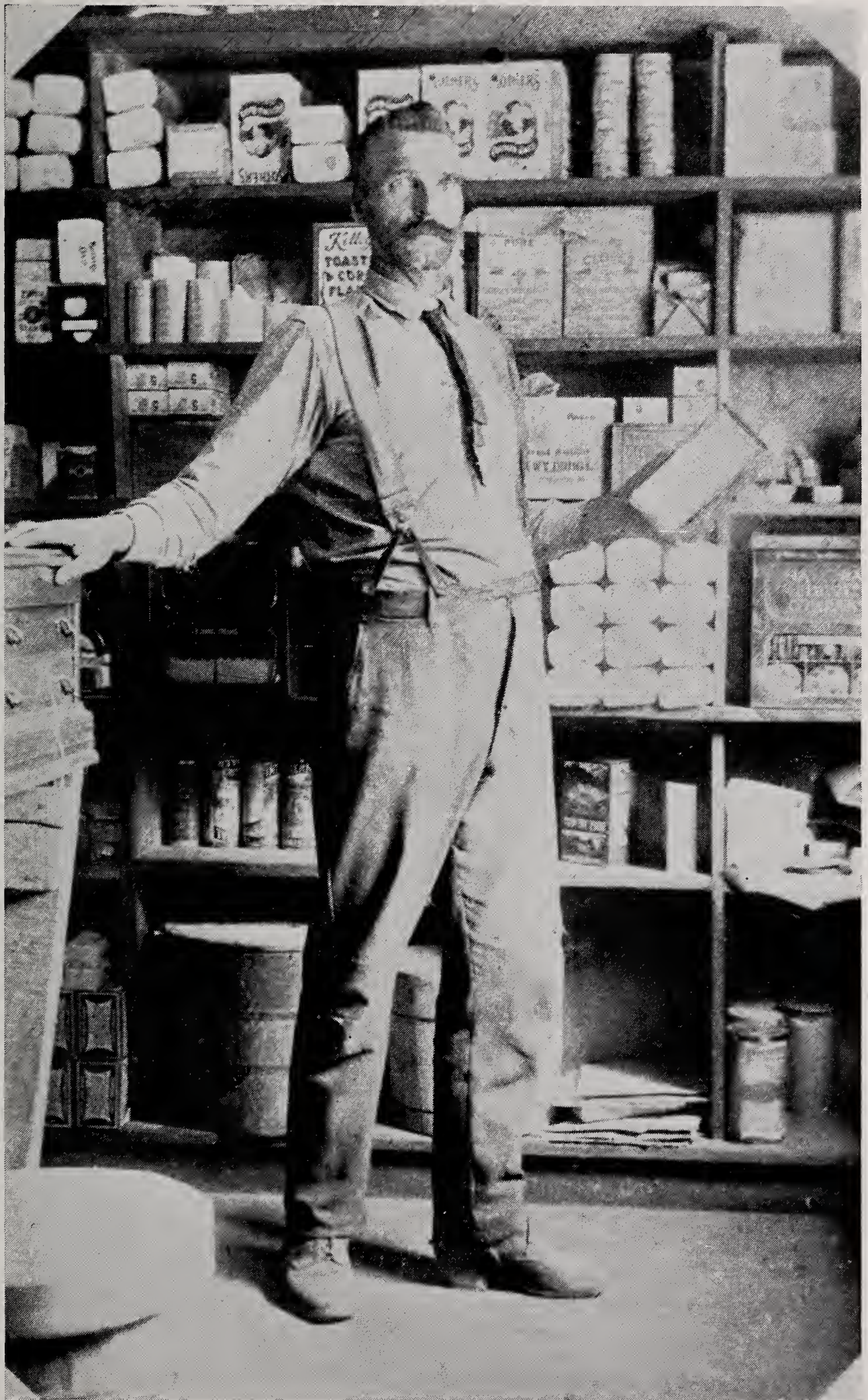
In West Virginia, Currence made his home all of his life. However, when John Chapman went West in the summer of 1906 to take a homestead, Currence accompanied John's family to Alliance, Nebraska. For about two months Currence remained there on a visit. He did not look for land on which to homestead.

About 1876 Currence joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. The church at that time had not been organized on Point Mountain, and Currence probably joined at Bergoo or Pleasant Grove. It appears that the first Sunday School on Point Mountain was that begun in Log Cabin about 1880. Currence was superintendent, Mary Hamrick was assistant superintendent, and Mary Chapman was secretary and treasurer. In the course of years, Currence developed a preference for the Baptist Church and at Jumbo he became a member of that church about 1916.

About 1914, while living near Sugar Creek, Currence became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, joining Elk Fork Lodge, No. 186. It appears that his membership was transferred to Diana, and finally to Centralia where he was a member of the order at the time of his death. On September 9, 1925, he died at Weston, and was buried in the Diana Cemetery. Thereafter Nancy spent her time with her children, mostly with Freda, Gertrude, and Luther. She died on May 15, 1940, and her remains were laid to rest by those of her husband in the Diana Cemetery. She lacked one day of having lived eighty years.

In his prime Currence was an industrious man and one of tremendous physical endurance. He could lift a barrel of salt weighing about 300 pounds and set it on a wagon. On the Chapman farm on Point Mountain is a log barn he built. He took pride in noting that by his strength alone the logs were put in their places. He possessed many characteristics of a frontiersman. He was ready for fight or frolic. He kept under a rough surface a heart of tenderness and sympathy, and in a primitive environment he was interested in learning, in fair play, and in the progress of his people.

⁶⁸ Records of Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.



CURRENCE CHAPMAN in his store. Photograph taken about 1913.

CURRENCE COLUMBUS CHAPMAN

As justice of the peace, it was for him a pleasant duty—indeed almost a delight—to gather in detail all the evidence in a case, no matter how complicated by confusion in family or community, and to make a decision according to law and to fact.

Of the 14 children born to Currence and Nancy, seven are living, and nine became parents. Grandchildren of Currence and Nancy now living number more than 30.⁶⁹ Wherever the children of Currence and Nancy have lived, they have been industrious and energetic citizens. They are among that substantial part of the people whom a poet called the “bold peasantry, their country’s pride.”

At Homestead, Florida, Leonard was chief of police. During the first World War, Luther served in Company A, 32nd Machine Gun Battalion, from July 24, 1918 to January 28, 1919. For nearly a quarter of a century he has been a mechanical engineer for the Polar Ice Company in Weston, West Virginia. His son, Lawrence Moore Chapman, is serving in the army in Alaska. Arnett Virdon Williams is in the same service there.

All of Currence’s sons, true to the practice of three preceding generations of Chapmans, engaged to some extent in agricultural pursuits. All of their sisters who grew to womanhood, married and became mothers, having homes of their own.

⁶⁹ Grandchildren not living are:

NAME	BORN	DECEASED
Eloise Ruth Capper	October 19, 1922	Aug. 21, 1925
William Bradberry Capper, Jr.		In Infancy
Charles Edward Capper		In Infancy
Jimmie Franklin Chapman	Oct. 11, 1930	Nov. 25, 1931
Leonard Franklin Chapman	Nov. 25, 1921	Sept. 12, 1925
Virginia Gray Chapman	Jan. 29, 1935	Feb. 24, 1935
Ruth Virginia Collins	1911	Age of 9 mos.
Ray Wilbert Collins	May 16, 1918	May 16, 1918
Lenora Belle Williams	Aug. 24, 1919	Sept. 9, 1925
Lucille Frances Williams	March 7, 1927	Dec. 22, 1941

Except in very few instances the tables in this book give first and middle names of persons listed. It can generally be assumed that where no middle name, or merely an initial, is listed, that such is the complete name appended to the surname.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

CHILDREN OF
CURRENCE COLUMBUS CHAPMAN and NANCY CATHERINE DODRILL
(MARRIED AUG. 14, 1881)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Francis Leonard	Sept. 20, 1882	Anna Blanche Brewer, April 6, 1904			June 17, 1928
Ella Elmira	Nov. 18, 1883	Andrew Melvin Collins, April 8, 1907	Edna May Pearl Anna William Edward Ruth Virginia Clarence Harold Ray Wilbert Mary Augustine		Sept. 13, 1924
Wallace G.	June 22, 1885				Nov. 6, 1886
Mary and Martha	Aug. 21, 1886				Aug. 21, 1886
Warick W.	Nov. 6, 1887				Sept. 21, 1889
Stanley Brooks	April 7, 1889	Eva Jane McLe Hicks July 12, 1908	Lewis Waid Opal Gay Columbus Bachel Leonard Franklin Pearl Catherine	Diana, W. Va.	
Gertrude Ann	Feb. 7, 1891	Charles Emmert Musgrave, April 24, 1909	Fred Leonard Bertha Catherine Frank Wesley Virginia Grace Charles Emmert, Jr. Isabella Ruth Mildred Dorothy	Route 1, Weston, W. Va.	

(Continued on Page 107)



Left to right: GERTRUDE MUSGRAVE, LAURA CAPPER and NANCY CHAPMAN, widow of Currence Chapman. LUTHER CHAPMAN is in background. Photograph taken at Black Water Falls, Davis, West Virginia, May 1935.

CURRENCE COLUMBUS CHAPMAN

CHILDREN OF
CURRENCE COLUMBUS CHAPMAN and NANCY CATHERINE DODRILL
(Continued)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Laura Emily	Nov. 9, 1892	William Bradberry Capper Dec. 24, 1913	Harry Everett Emmett Milton William Bradberry, Jr. Charles Edward		Dec. 11, 1937
Luther Moore	Feb. 18, 1895	Wilma Bernice Brown, Feb. 8, 1920	Lawrence Moore Ruth Grace Edgar Lee	217 Wright St. Weston, W. Va.	
Olive Leo	Feb. 6, 1897	John Smith Capper Jan. 23, 1919	Kathryn Virginia Eloise Ruth Lucille Mae	383 Kathryn Place Akron, Ohio	
Freda Jane	Dec. 15, 1899	Everett Basil Williams March 11, 1916	Lillian Sydmore Arnett Virdon Lenora Belle Warren Harding Laura Maud Lucille Frances	Guardian, W. Va.	
Sherman Gay	July 28, 1902	Dora Jane Hines Dec. 23, 1923	Denzil Ray Lena Belle Jimmie Franklin Doy Lee Virginia Gray Mabeline May	Diana, W. Va.	
Gilbert	Dec. 12, 1904	Retta Rosetta Hines July 22, 1924	Frank Lloyd Floyd James Mable Ruth	Diana, W. Va.	

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

CURRENCE COLUMBUS CHAPMAN
NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER IX

SARAH RUHAMA CHAPMAN

On February 18, 1862, on Leatherwood Creek, Sarah Ruhama Chapman first saw the light of day. It is said that her arrival was honored by the presence of both of her grandmothers. In childhood Sarah lived at places named above in reference to her parents and Mahala.

Her formal education began on Gauley Mountain when she was about five years old, her father being her first teacher. It is reasonable to assume that before she lived on Point Mountain she attended the schools named in reference to Mahala, and taught by Gregory, Hannah, Jonathan G. Hamrick, Dodrill, Stanard, and James M. Hamrick of Braxton County.

The Chapman family moved to Point Mountain when Sarah was about twelve years old. This was too far from a school to attend with any degree of satisfaction, so that with the exception of attending for a short time the school Hollister taught at Bergoo Creek, Sarah's schooling appears to have been suspended until Log Cabin opened in 1878.

As already explained, the first teacher at Log Cabin was Kate Arthur. Maggie Arthur, sister of Kate, was a substitute teacher for about three weeks of the term. Sarah and the older children liked the "Arthur girls," especially Kate, and things went quite smoothly. A little less must be said for Sarah's younger brothers. Perhaps the most somber story concerns a black dog, property of William G. Hamrick, at whose home Kate boarded. At school the dog found comfort before the fireplace. His presence and activity there were purportedly the reason for amusement among certain pupils, whose mood was summarily changed by drastic action of the teacher. According to Gaines Chapman, Kate taught one term only and was succeeded by Dr. M. H. Dyer, who was Sarah's last teacher.

Sarah's opportunities to attend school were meager, being more like those of Mahala and Mary than of Columbia and

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Emma. Today it is difficult for school children to understand the mediocrity of primitive education where schoolmasters, instead of using precious opportunity to train pupils in the fundamentals of living, often resorted to physical beatings of those whom they were paid to help. Where such unfortunate incidents occurred all the blame cannot be laid on untrained teachers for the theory of physical abuse of children was also indoctrinated in homes and there lasted too long.

On November 4, 1880, when Sarah was nearly 19 years old, she and Lloyd Conrad were married. The wedding took place at the Chapman home. Sarah was the first of the thirteen children to leave Point Mountain and return there no more to live. She was only a half-dozen years on Point Mountain. To her the Chapman farm there could hardly have seemed more like home than Gauley Mountain or Leatherwood.

Lloyd and Sarah made their home on Cheat Mountain in Randolph County, about 25 miles from the Chapman home. Their post office was at Valley Head. Later they moved, but for several years did not leave the vicinity of Valley Head. They became the parents of five children, all boys: Francis Harmon, Ellis Richard, Vilas Clinton, Victor Linden, and Bent Rumsey. Vilas and Victor are twins.

Mahala, Sarah, and Mary had considerable aptitude for singing, and participated in many performances around a family organ, at church or at other community gatherings. Frequently Columbia joined them to make the quartette complete. Sarah always had a profound interest in the Christian religion. At Pleasant Grove she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church when she was about 18 years old. She was a regular attendant at church and Sunday School all her life. In Los Angeles, about 1930, she joined the International Church of the Four-square Gospel.

In her sojourn of 73 years, Sarah lived in several localities other than those to which reference has been made. The following are approximate: Los Angeles and vicinity, 1906-18; Fullerton, California, 1918-22; West Virginia, 1922-24; Arkansas, 1924-26; Oregon, 1926-28; Fullerton, California, 1928-35. It appears that Sarah spent some time in Nebraska, Missouri and Florida.



THE CONRAD FAMILY at Valley Head, 1898. Left to right, Victor, Lloyd, Bent, Sarah, Vilas, and Ellis. Francis is in background.

SARAH RUHAMA CHAPMAN

For a time Sarah worked for the Bastanchury Orange Company at Fullerton. At another time she was saleswoman for a real estate company. Once she had a vineyard of her own.

The only occasion this writer had of getting acquainted with Sarah was in August, about 1922, when she visited at the home of his parents a few days. One afternoon, when he was making hay in the field alone, Sarah volunteered to "go on the stack,"⁷⁰ a performance in which she had not engaged for many years. The hay was pitched and she shaped the stack with a degree of skill that attested the observation and training of her girlhood.

Lloyd Conrad died on April 8, 1931, and was buried at Bowden, West Virginia. Sarah died of a heart ailment on August 13, 1935, in the Orange County Hospital near Fullerton. Her remains were laid to rest in a Fullerton cemetery, property of the Loma Vista Cemetery Association.⁷¹

Sarah, like her sisters, was a member of that great middle class that stabilize society. She was content to go the even tenor of her way. She had neither riches nor poverty; nor did she enjoy renown or suffer disgrace. Whether at home with her boys, among her other relatives, or in a distant region, she found her place in God's great plan and filled it.

⁷⁰ In a section of the Allegheny Mountains there is a peculiar way of stacking hay. One end of a pole, 20 or 30 feet long, is fastened securely in the ground and the hay is stacked around the pole in a circular form, making a diameter of about 12 feet. About six feet above the ground the stack is bulged and then tapered off to a hay rope wrapped tightly around the pole at the top.

⁷¹ The following notation is made of the grandchildren. John Larence Conrad married Harriet Huntzinger, and they have four children: John Larence, Jr., born Jan. 14, 1934; Charlotte Jeannine, born June 23, 1935—deceased Feb. 8, 1936; June Eileen, born June 11, 1937; and James Franklin, born Jan. 15, 1941. Victor David Conrad married Roma Barbara Melville on March 24, 1935.

Elkins Harmon Conrad married Mary Louise Heck and they have one child, Patricia Joanne, born July 20, 1935.

Wilson Harry Conrad married Mayme May Gimmel, and they have one child, Victor Leon. Mabel Bertha Conrad married Robbie Thurman Nelson and they have three children: Richard Lee born and deceased Nov. 2, 1938; Barbara Ann born Oct. 8, 1939—deceased Oct. 15, 1939; and Kenneth Lloyd born June 22, 1942. Delmer Conrad was born Jan. 8, 1918—deceased Jan. 10, 1918. Anna Conrad was born and deceased Nov. 24, 1921.

Elizabeth Alice Conrad married Sherman William Sheld. Virginia C. Conrad married Robert Conway Lloyd-Jones, and they have one child, Leon Thomas.

Harry Linden Conrad is a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army air corps.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Her son, Francis, is owner of the Conrad Lumber Company at Fort Pierce, Florida. He is also owner of the Taylor Harbor Fishing Port, Incorporated, a wholesale firm in the shrimp and fish business. Ellis is engaged in farming, and Victor is a letter carrier in the postal service. The other brothers work for railroad companies. Bent is a car inspector for the Southern Pacific, and Vilas has been with the Western Maryland for a quarter of a century. Thirteen grandchildren of Lloyd and Sarah are living.

SARAH RUHAMA CHAPMAN

CHILDREN OF
SARAH RUHAMA CHAPMAN and LLOYD CONRAD
(MARRIED NOV. 4, 1880)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Francis Harmon	Nov. 13, 1881	Dora Elizabeth Thompson Sept. 11, 1907	John Larence Victor David Elkins Harmon Raymond Farr Oneita Elizabeth Francis Harmon, Jr.	Conrad Lumber Co. Fort Pierce, Fla.	
Ellis Richard	May 14, 1883	Lillie Vance March 9, 1911	Wilson Harry Mabel Bertha Ethel Mae Delmer Anna	R. 2, Box 102 Elkins, W. Va.	
Vilas Clinton	March 4, 1887	Sarah Jane Vandevender July 27, 1910		Bowden, W. Va.	
Victor Linden	March 4, 1887	Alice Flora Snodgrass Feb. 18, 1913	Elizabeth Alice Harry Linden	5224 Hartwick St. Los Angeles, Calif.	
Bent Rumsey	Oct. 13, 1891	Bertha Blanche Fretwell July 24, 1913	Herbert Wilson Virginia C.	156 W. 48th St. Los Angeles, Calif.	

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

SARAH RUHAMA CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER X

MARY SUSANNAH CHAPMAN

Mary Susannah Chapman was born on Elk River below Whittaker Falls, January 21, 1864. During girlhood she was known among her friends as "Mary Ann." At the age of six she attended her first school, one taught by Jonathan G. Hamrick on Gauley Mountain. Thereafter, for practical purposes, it may be said that her schooling was the same that Sarah had.

Concerning her school days on Point Mountain, Mary says: "We girls had to work out on the farm like men, could attend school only in winter, and then only part of the time. Often the snow was so deep we could not wade it. We had no school busses in those days."

Almost from childhood Mary was interested in qualifying herself as a nurse. She seemed to find comfort in caring for the sick. After 1880, for the duration of about three years before she was married, she was away from home; nursing most of the time.

The lives of Sarah and Mary were much alike. They went to school together; sang together; were converted at Pleasant Grove, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church; were married at the home of their parents at about the age of 19; each was the mother of five children; and each migrated somewhat slowly to California—there to find rest and comfort in the eventide of life.

At the age of fourteen Mary was converted at Pleasant Grove, and has since been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On September 20, 1883, she became the bride of Allen Brady Channell. They located on Conley Run, near Valley Head in Randolph County, where they lived most of the time until 1897. From Billy Chapman, Allen and Mary bought land and built a house thereon in the "old orchard," near the Cold Spring, in 1888. In the autumn of that year they moved back to their farm in Randolph County.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Children born to Allen and Mary were: Nancy Jane, Columbia Alice, Minnie May, Stanley Rhea, and Parker Paris. Four of the children grew up and established homes of their own. For the girls the family is the center of devotion. Parker served in the United States Navy from May 26, 1917 to October 22, 1921. For 13 years he was with the Bell Telephone Company in Los Angeles as a first class electrician. He is installation foreman for the Southern California Telephone Company in the same city. He takes active interest in the work of the Masonic order.

Allen and Mary have 24 grandchildren living.⁷² Their daughter, Nancy Jane Arbogast, has 14 children of whom 13 are living. She has 43 grandchildren of whom 41 are living. Thus she has more children and more grandchildren than have any of those 70 persons who are her first cousins by Chapman blood.

Allen died several years ago and was buried at Valley Head. Mary spent much of her life as a housewife, mother, seamstress, and nurse. Especially, in Indiana and Chicago she practiced her profession as nurse. About 1915 she moved to Long Beach, California.

On May 7, 1919, at Long Beach, she became the wife of Harlie Gray. Since 1923 their home has been at 248 Monroe Place, Monrovia, California.⁷³ In his earlier years of work, Harlie engaged in farming in Nebraska and then took up the carpenter's trade.

One of the pleasures Harlie and Mary have enjoyed, during the last 15 years, is their annual vacation of the autumn spent in the mountains 800 miles north of Monrovia. This vacation they take the liberty to extend anywhere from a few weeks to five months.

⁷² Iva Iland Arbogast was born Sept. 12, 1903, and died Sept. 11, 1905. A son was born to Marlin and Minnie Ware on May 27, 1916. He died shortly after birth and was not named.

⁷³ Harlie and Mary lived at Long Beach, Glendora and Monrovia, all in Los Angeles County.



MARY CHANNELL, 1914

MARY SUSANNAH CHAPMAN

CHILDREN OF
MARY SUSANNAH CHAPMAN and ALLEN BRADY CHANNELL
(MARRIED SEPT. 20, 1883)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Nancy Jane	Aug. 31, 1884	James Bernard Arbogast, Sept. 15, 1902	Iva Iland Emma Lucille Mary Virgie Mable May Glen Oliver Roscoe Elmer Ocie Alice Ray Virgil Allen Parker Gail Gladys Jewell Oakland Dale Loren Willie Day Pearl Lola	Valley Head, W. Va.	
Columbia Alice	Nov. 22, 1886	George Cleveland Lantz March 31, 1909	Hazel Genevieve Everett Dale Mary Hunter Charles Allen Elmer Donald	Boyer, W. Va.	

(Continued on Page 126)

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

MARY SUSANNAH CHAPMAN and ALLEN BRADY CHANNELL (Continued)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Minnie May	April 5, 1888	Marlin Leslie Ware Nov. 16, 1904 Edward Davis Dudley May 28, 1935	Herchell Ogden Charles Vernon Ruby Mary Virginia Ruth Marie	59 Eloise Ave. Pasadena, Calif.	
Stanley Rhea	Aug. 25, 1892				Aug. 7, 1897
Parker Paris	May 7, 1897	Olga Lydia Pfadenhauer June 15, 1925	Norma June Geraldine	3655 Boise Ave., Mar Vista, Calif.	



PARKER PARIS CHANNELL, during his service in the U. S. Navy, 1917 to 1921.

MARY SUSANNAH CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XI

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN

Columbia Myrtle Chapman was born February 9, 1866, on Gauley Mountain. The name "Columbia Chapman," was recorded in the family Bible. In later years, before her marriage, Columbia adopted the middle name "Myrtle." As explained in Mahala's sketch above, Billy Chapman was teaching a subscription school when Columbia was born. She arrived earlier than was anticipated according to events on the calendar of her father. He found it necessary to terminate the school rather abruptly in order to play a more active role in affairs at home. Fortunately, both of his patrons agreeably consented to the closure of school.

Columbia attended the schools at Leatherwood taught by Henry M. Dodrill, Walter B. Stanard, and James M. Hamrick, referred to in Mahala's sketch. In 1878, when the Log Cabin schoolhouse at Lower Point Mountain was completed, Columbia resumed her schoolwork there. Teachers she had at Log Cabin were Kate Arthur, Dr. M. H. Dyer, Mollie Hickman, Sylvester McGuire, and D. H. Hamrick. In the new schoolhouse she attended terms of school taught by L. A. Dodrill and J. W. Arthur. Terms of school were three or four months in length. Attendance for Columbia was very irregular and during some terms she attended only a few weeks. The school D. H. Hamrick taught, she attended only a few days.

On September 2, 1878, at the age of 12, Columbia was converted to the Christian faith at a Methodist revival or protracted meeting held in the schoolhouse in which she had attended school at Leatherwood. Sixty-four years after her conversion, in private correspondence with Mahala and Gaines, she put in writing for the first time the story of that event. The author is deeply indebted to her for permitting him to print an extract from her letter, describing a delicate subject with remarkable clarity. The influence of divine revelation is something that can be fully understood only by experience. Crude language of mortals is a poor transmitter.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

However difficult it may be for the youth of later generations to understand the super-human influences that came with religious revelation more than a half century ago, it must not be forgotten that contemporary evidence confirms the existence of those influences. One must consider not only to whom, but from whom, divine revelations were made. Clothed with many a clumsy feature, there were in those religious services aspects that would mystify the wisest of men.

Material matters are easier to define. Mourner's benches were common benches used as seats, except that at revival meetings they were arranged in front of the room so that a mourner could kneel on the floor and rest his elbows or face on the benches. A mourner thus kneeling exposed to the congregation the bottom of one or both of his shoes.

At a revival meeting, services were held each day and night for a week or longer. It was commonly recognized that society consisted of two classes—the saved and the sinners. The process of one being elevated to the class of the saved was believed to occur only at the mourner's bench. The instant of divine adoption, especially for women, was often marked by "shouting," which might continue from five to fifteen minutes. "Shouting," whether by a new convert or by one long confirmed in the faith, was frequently accompanied by tears of joy and indescribable activity, physical and vocal.

The extract from Columbia's letter, evidencing the power of the Holy Spirit, and describing the customs and beliefs of Christians in Webster County, is as follows:

When I was 12 years old (I was small of my age), Brother Poling⁷⁴ held a revival meeting at Pleasant Grove, but I wasn't there. When it closed Brother Poling came home with Father, Mother, Currence and Becky.⁷⁵ I think Sarah and Mary stayed at Charley Dodrill's home that night. While getting supper Becky took me to the milk house to help bring the milk and butter, and she said to me, "Mary Ann went to the mourner's bench and was converted." I seemed

⁷⁴ Rev. Cyrus Poling, a traveling Methodist minister.

⁷⁵ Rebecca C. Arthur, first wife of Currence Chapman. The Chapmans lived on Point Mountain.

to choke up, tears came to my eyes and I said, "I wish I was in her place."

Becky said, "Bother Poling is going to hold a meeting at Leatherwood and maybe you can attend." The next morning Brother Poling took me on his knee and said that I must come to Leatherwood. Said he, "We want to get you converted." I have since thought Becky might have told on me, for the next week preparations were made. Father bought calico for a dress and Mother made it with my help. I sat on the floor and hemmed the ruffle. Father seemed to be amused at me when I said to Mother, "Shall I sew it a run and a stitch?" Father said, "Yes, then with a hop, skip and a jump." That week was exciting for me. I was looking forward to the great event, for I was like you, Gaines, I thought I could get religion only at a protracted meeting.

The great day came and we all went to Leatherwood. Mary had told me what to do and when mourners were called she gave me a nudge, or push rather. There were two or three benchfuls at the altar with me. I can't say I felt guilty, but I was sad and gloomy and felt like I was the least and most lowly of any there. Many came and told me how to pray and what to say. I said it and tried to have faith.

The meeting for the forenoon ended. I ate no lunch, though Father tried to get me to eat some of the good things Mother had prepared.⁷⁶ The afternoon was a repetition of my morning experience, and I was discouraged.

That evening Father and Mother went home but left me at Kelly Ben Hamrick's, near the meetinghouse.

Next forenoon (Monday) found me at the altar again trying to have faith, saying everything the Christians told me to say. When they would pull me up from the altar, wanting me to shout, I would pull myself back down, and felt like I wanted to get lower

⁷⁶ It was customary to take lunch to church and stay all day. The social custom of "dinner on the ground" was an attractive feature of revival meetings.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

than the floor, for I thought religion was some kind of a force that when it came would lift me up and compel my hands and feet to move with its own power.

Finally I ceased to be ashamed of my face and raised my head and sat back on my knees and heels. I was sitting there looking over the house. A row of men was standing against the wall and they were all looking at me. One was Levi Hamrick, brother of Pete and Jim. He had said I was to him like his own child for I had been good to his mother when I stayed at Milt Conrad's home. He was both laughing and crying and came to me and knelt by me and took me in his arms and said, "Columbia, child, you are just as happy as you can be; you already have religion. You are converted now."

Well, I had a lot of respect for Uncle Levi and I thought to myself: "Perhaps he is right; I am, at times, somewhat stupid; maybe I have religion and don't have sense enough to know it." I felt ashamed. Just then Aunt Polly Mace lifted me up again and I thought I would try to shout. I clapped my hands once. Becky Chapman grabbed me, lifted me over the other mourners. You must believe me when I say that quick as lightning I was, as Paul said, absent from the body and present with the Lord. I was not conscious of anything material. It was something like a feather floating in the air. Sarah told me she would never forget that I had been all over the house shouting until I stopped with Father.

That was the first instant I realized anything material. I was standing on a bench in Father's arms; my arms failed to reach above his head and I hit him in the face. That brought me back to earth. So you see, at last, I got the religion with power for which I prayed.

True enough, it took me about over top of benches and through the crowd without knowledge or any effort on my part. All I knew was love, joy; I was so happy I wanted to tell all the Christians, shake hands with them, yet I did not want to let go of

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN

Father; so I reached out my hand and many came and praised God with me.

Finally I got off the bench to go to E..... H....., who was a little beyond my age. I thought she was the only sinner in the house that was not at the altar. I could not get her to come there. I wanted every sinner in the land to feel the joy that filled my soul just then.

I have since understood why that great happiness was not had sooner. My faith was belief instead of understanding. I was praying for mercy when He is a God of mercy; praying for the spirit when He has already sent His spirit; praying to be blessed when He has already blessed with everything good and created us in His own likeness. Jesus said: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." It is like one standing before a fountain flowing free, yet his thirst will never be quenched until he takes hold and drinks. Uncle Levi was right; I was asking God to do what He had already done, and as soon as I acknowledged Him, I accepted and was conscious of the spirit.

No, Mahala and Gaines, those experiences of being born of the spirit will never be forgotten.⁷⁷ Mahala, I

⁷⁷ The first and fourth stanzas of the song, named in this paragraph, are as follows:

There is a spot to me more dear
Than native race or mountain,
A spot for which affectionate tears
Spring grateful from its fountain.
'Tis not where kindred souls abound,
Though that is almost Heaven,
But where I first my Savior found
And felt my sins forgiven.
Oh sacred hour, Oh hallowed spot,
Where Love divine first found me.
Wherever falls my distant lot,
My heart shall linger 'round thee;
And when from earth I rise to soar
Up to my home in Heaven,
Down will I cast my eyes once more
Where I was first forgiven.

In classmeetings members stood up and related their experiences and hopes in living a Christian life. When a member sat down someone in the congregation would start an appropriate song suitable to the testimony just given. The song to which Columbia refers was sometimes sung when a Christian spoke of the place of his conversion.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

too, have often sung that good old song beginning, "There is a Spot to Me More Dear." That spot is the little schoolhouse at Leatherwood, and the date September 2, 1878.

Dear Brother and Sister, when we consider the Truth, Love and Spirit that we have been born of, it convinces us that we shall live again and love each other when God reigns supreme and His kingdom comes; when sin, disease, death and all discord are ruled out of His kingdom.

I have often told the story of my conversion, but never put it on paper until now. I did not realize it was so long; and yet I have not told all. The half will never be told. I yet want to mention the helpful advice Mother gave me, to be steadfast through life. She told me the day I went home from the meeting at Leatherwood never to let a day pass without praying secretly. I have tried to follow her advice.

* * * *

We have already observed that the Woodzell post office was established in the home of Billy Chapman, June 11, 1886, with Billy as postmaster, and that he served until May 1, 1887, when the office was transferred to the home of John W. Gregory.⁷⁸ It appears that the name "Chapman" would have been applied to the office had there not been already in existence the post office of Chapmanville in Logan County.⁷⁹ In deference to James Woodzell, who had charge of carrying the mail from Addison to Valley Head, his name was selected for the office.

Regulations required that Billy have an assistant postmaster sworn in by some officer other than himself. Thereafter, Billy could swear in as many assistants as he chose. It was expected that Columbia would have charge of the mail, but it was not convenient for her to go to Addison to take

⁷⁸ Records, U. S. Post Office Department, Washington, D. C. According to the records, John W. Gregory served as postmaster of the Woodzell office until its discontinuance on September 29, 1917. Mail for former patrons was ordered sent to Bernards Town. The Bernards Town office was ordered discontinued May 15, 1933, and mail for former patrons of that office was ordered sent to Webster Springs.

⁷⁹ *Official Register of the United States*, 1885, vol. 2, p. 675.

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN

the oath of office. Consequently, Billy sent Gaines Chapman to Addison where Ben Conrad administered the oath of office making him first assistant postmaster. Billy then administered the oath of office to Columbia, who became an assistant postmaster. She attended to the mail, as Billy and Gaines were usually in the field when carrier and patrons came. Mail was light, there being from Addison only two deliveries a week, with a total weekly delivery of little more than a score of letters, circulars and papers. Compensation derived from the post office hardly justified the attention it required.

Columbia was the only one of Billy's daughters to remain at home until she was 21 years old. In 1888 she received a number three teacher's certificate. On the county board of examiners were three members, two of whom were Walter B. Stanard and Emerson Morton.

About the time Columbia received the certificate, Billy manifested considerable interest in the education of the children of his friends on Gauley Mountain. He consulted the local board of education about the desirability of providing for a few months of school there. The board looked with favor on the suggestion. The schoolhouse was the one in which Billy had taught. In 1888 it was owned by Adam Hamrick, son of Benjamin. Adam had corn fodder stored in the house. Arrangements were made for school, and Billy took Columbia, then 22 years old, to Gauley Mountain. As they were riding on horseback up the mountain Billy, sensing some humor in the situation, said: "Columbia, I am taking you back to finish my school that you came and broke up." She taught a school term of three months.

At Sugar Creek in 1889 Columbia taught a school term of four months. On February 7 of that year, while she was teaching, Columbia became the bride of John Wesley Cogar, known to his friends as "Wes." The wedding was in the Chapman home on Point Mountain. To Wes and Columbia were born eleven children: Walter, Beverly Edward, Norma Olive, Mary Jane, Wilford William, Iva Island, Katherine Ruhama, Emma Lola, Glover Russell, Lewis Dwite, and Herbert Sylvester.

In 1889 Wes and Columbia began housekeeping on Sugar Run, a tributary of Sugar Creek. On September 1 of that

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

year Billy Chapman died. In 1890 Wes and Columbia moved to the Chapman farm on Point Mountain and located a half mile from the Chapman home, on a tract of land Billy had given to Columbia.

The Cogars moved to the head of Holly River in 1892, and returned to Point Mountain during the same year. From Nancy they bought a tract of land an eighth of a mile from the Chapman home, and just above the cemetery. There in the winter of 1892-93 Wes built a frame house with a double chimney and shingle roof, which house is now the home of George Bonner. Wes owned a grocery store on Point Mountain, 1893-94.

In 1896 Wes and Columbia moved to the Desert Fork of Holly River. There Wes selected a level tract of land in the timber, erected a house and cleared land for crops. He left a large poplar tree standing in the front yard. The earliest incident in Beverly's memory is that of Wes shooting a wild turkey out of the tree. Turkeys were plentiful on Desert Fork in those days and Wes got his share of them. The wing and tail feathers were used in making "feather" dusters.

Asa Cogar was Wes' oldest brother. Their families lived a half mile apart and were nearest neighbors to each other.

Wes in 1905 moved his family to Sugar Creek. There for about three years he owned a general store, and was postmaster at Skelt.⁸⁰ The post office was in the store. About 1907 the family moved to the Ella Gregory farm on Fairview Mountain near Skelt, and occupied a house built by James Gregory. In 1909 they sold this farm and bought the Rankins farm near by.

At Alliance, Nebraska, on August 24, 1909, at 2:12 p.m., Wes made homestead entry for 640 acres in township 23 north, range 53 west, including parts of sections 1, 2, 11 and 12.⁸¹ The homestead was near Malinda, and about two or three miles from homesteads occupied by Gaines, Grant and John. On the Cogar homestead were about 100 acres culti-

⁸⁰ Tradition has it that the Skelt post office was named for William "Skelt" Cogar, father of Wes. William acquired the name "Skelt" because it was said that he went "helter skelter" through the hills hunting.

⁸¹ Wes Cogar's homestead papers are in Washington, D. C., Gen. Land Office, Alliance, 09654. According to Columbia, by actual survey the homestead contained about 620 acres.



WES AND COLUMBIA COGAR, 1903. Photograph taken near their home on
Desert Fork of Holly River.

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN

vable, the balance being hilly, and there was some rocky land. There was no timber on the homestead. It was all good grazing land. There was a frame house on the land built by a former settler, whose improvements Wes purchased.

On September 27 Wes established actual residence on the land. The family built a sod house in which they lived, and in 1910 Columbia taught a school of four months in the frame building on the homestead. The houses were only a few yards apart. To qualify as a teacher, Columbia submitted evidence of her having taught school in West Virginia. She attended an institute and took an examination at Gering, county seat of Scotts Bluff County. Thereafter Miss Agnes Lackey, the county superintendent, issued her a teacher's permit, stating that after reading the examination papers, she considered the applicant qualified to teach school. While teaching, Columbia took nine of her children into the schoolroom with her, including Herbert who was about two years old. Mary Smith, her niece, Elbert Smith, her nephew, and Dolly Greenawalt, her grandniece, also attended the school. A total of 16 pupils was enrolled.

In 1910 the Cogar family cultivated eight acres in corn, potatoes and beans. The next year they cultivated 15 or 16 acres in corn. In 1912 they increased the corn acreage to 20, and had one acre in garden. They built a four-room frame house, 14 feet by 28 feet, valued at \$700. Other improvements which are listed in Wes' testimony of final proof on April 23, 1913, are the following, with values given: frame barn, 16 feet by 26 feet, \$100; frame building, 12 feet by 14 feet, \$70; sod milk house, 8 feet by 8 feet, \$20; cave, 8 feet by 12 feet, \$20; closet \$10; garden fence \$10; 1¾ miles of wire fence, \$150; well, windmill and pump, \$225; breaking \$48.

W. W. Wood, the local register, signed Wes' homestead certificate under date of April 25, 1913. Proper approval of a final certificate conveyed to the homesteader the right to have and to hold his land, with appurtenances thereof.

Wes used the land for pasture for his own stock, and for some other stock. He kept from 13 to 18 horses of his own and 9 or 10 cows on the land, and some hogs and chickens. In 1913 Wes said that he had worked for the government reclamation service during two years a good portion of the

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

time, and was away during the week for that purpose, but was home on his claim every Saturday night. The family had not been absent from the claim since settlement.

Wes sold the homestead about 1914. The issuance of a patent was a mere formality, and it was not until September 2, 1918, that patent no. 353396 was issued to him for lands in the homestead.

At Torrington, Wyoming, on October 16, 1913, Columbia made declaration of application for a desert land entry of 320 acres in township 22 north, range 64 west, section 14.⁸² The land is in Goshen County, in eastern Wyoming, about 30 miles from the Cogar homestead. Columbia gave her address as Malinda, Nebraska. The family intended to move to the land and irrigate it by means of artesian wells. Because Columbia gave her address as Nebraska, instead of a place in Wyoming at which she could have located and established residence, her application on October 20 was rejected by the register and receiver of the Cheyenne Land Office.

A deposit of \$80.00 was returned to her and she was given 30 days within which to renew application as a resident of Wyoming, or to appeal the case to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. Wes was in West Virginia on a visit and did not return within the time allowed, and Columbia abandoned the matter. Melvina Chapman, wife of John R. Chapman, was with Columbia, made a similar application for herself, and abandoned the matter as did Columbia.

In 1915 Wes and Columbia moved to Minatare, Nebraska. They moved to Colton, Oregon, in 1917; to Alhambra, California, in 1923, and finally to a location near Elsinore, in the same State in 1927. There Wes died November 11, 1938, and was buried in the Valhalla Memorial Park Cemetery, near Burbank, California. Had he lived until February 7 following, he and Columbia would have celebrated their golden wedding. With her children, Columbia celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday on February 9, 1941. Her health is good. She operates a small chicken ranch and a gasoline filling station near Elsinore.

As explained above, Columbia joined the Methodist Episcopal

⁸² Columbia's papers relative to the declaration are in Washington, D. C., General Land Office, Cheyenne, serial no. 010549.



LAWRENCE AND IVA DAHLSTROM on their wedding day, 1919.

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN

Church at Leatherwood in 1878. At Lower Point Mountain about 1884 she served as superintendent of the Sunday School. While living on the homestead in Nebraska, Columbia was superintendent of a Sunday School organized about 1912 by Gaines Chapman while he was working under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union. At Minatare in 1915 Columbia joined the Ladies Aid, an organization in the Methodist Church.

In 1915 she became president of the local organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, in which capacity she served two years. It was in 1916 that, by popular initiative, the legal voters of Nebraska adopted the following amendment to the State constitution: "On and after May 1, 1917, the manufacture, the sale, the keeping for sale or barter, the sale or barter, under any pretext, of malt, spirituous, vinous or other intoxicating liquors, are forever prohibited in this State, except for medicinal, scientific or mechanical, or sacramental purposes." Members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Minatare worked hard for prohibition, and rejoiced in the day of their victory.

At Cedardale, near Colton, Oregon, Columbia was class-leader and Sunday School teacher for about four years, beginning in 1918. For about three years in the early 'thirties, she was a Sunday School teacher at the Antelope schoolhouse near Elsinore, California. For over 40 years Columbia has been interested in the literature and services of the Christian Science Church. She studies the Lesson-Sermons daily.

Of the eleven children born to Wes and Columbia, nine are living and have homes on the Pacific coast. Walter died in infancy. Four of his sisters are living, Iva having died in 1924. Iva's son, Richard, is a college man, now in the service of his country, and her daughter, Winifred, is employed in the State House at Salem, Oregon. Grandchildren of Wes and Columbia now living number 21.⁸³

In the Los Angeles Fire Department, Beverly is chief of Battalion no. 5, "A" platoon, stationed in Hollywood district.

⁸³ Grandchildren deceased are:

NAME	BORN	DECEASED
Wilford Stanley Cogar	July 16, 1927	May 25, 1941
Leslie Rae Crawford	March 9, 1923	Dec. 17, 1923

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

In the same department, Wilford is captain in the Training Division, and is with Truck company no. 2, "B" platoon. In Los Angeles Glover and Herbert are owners of the firm, **Cogar Brothers**, which engages in the manufacture, installation and servicing of neon signs. Lewis Dwite, as a child, was given the first name of "Porter," but he is commonly known among his friends as "Lewis." For some years he was associated with the **Cogar Brothers**, but in the present national emergency is engaged at work in shipyards.

Below is an extract from a letter this writer received from Columbia on August 18, 1941. The extract expresses well her personality, and reminds one of the Biblical verse, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

"My interest and energy were mostly given to rearing my ten children, not only to feeding and clothing them, but in trying to steer their thoughts in the straight path of truth, honesty and industry. Their father was ever by my side to help.

"I now feel that I am recompensed for my labor for I have a family of which I am proud. They are grown, married and have families which they are supporting without any aid from government, state or national. Not one of the children has ever been confined in jail, or indicted in court, or cost the state a dollar for crime. My children are a source of comfort and assurance to me in my old age."

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN

CHILDREN OF
COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN and JOHN WESLEY COGAR
(MARRIED FEB. 7, 1889)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Walter	Nov. 19, 1890				Nov. 20, 1890
Beverly Edward	June 1, 1892	Blanche Margaret Stetson May 2, 1917	Barbara Regina Margaret Ellen	2014 N. Serrano Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	
Norma Olive	Jan. 23, 1894	Albert Clyde Wright June 1, 1913 Roy Edward Bacon Nov. 29, 1934	Genevieve Rutha Willette Lee Virene Winifred	Death Valley Junction, Calif.	
Mary Jane	Sept. 1, 1895	Frederick Lincoln Groff June 1, 1913 Edward Willits June 15, 1935	Myrtle Josephine Frederick Lincoln	256 School St. Covina, Calif.	
Wilford William	March 7, 1897	Florence Ethelyn McNutt June 16, 1924	Wilford Stanley Evelyn Florence	3851 W. 58 Place Los Angeles, Calif.	

(Continued on Page 148)

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

CHILDREN OF
COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN and JOHN WESLEY COGAR
(Continued)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Iva Island	Jan. 21, 1900	Lawrence August Dahlstrom June 24, 1919	Richard Arthur Winifred Nancy		April 3, 1924
Katherine Ruhama	Nov. 29, 1901	Basil Edwin Rice June 12, 1923	Madelon Lois Edsil Herbert	11701 Denver Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	
Emma Lola	April 19, 1903	Oliver David Crawford June 1, 1922	Leslie Rae Marjorie Loue Oliver Wesley Lola Jean	R. 2, Mollala, Oregon	
Glover Russel	March 18, 1905	Reva Gay Greenawalt March 11, 1929	Shirley Gay Lelia Mae Glover Russell, Jr.	614 N. Electric Ave. Alhambra, Calif.	
Lewis Dwite	Oct. 30, 1906	Viola Coleman Nov. 23, 1932 Myrtle Smyth Nov. 1, 1936	Lewis, Jr. Stanley	R. 1, Box 36 Romoland, Calif.	
Herbert Sylvester	March 20, 1909	Georgia Adena Long Sept. 30, 1933	Jeanette	1561 Marion Drive Glendale, Calif.	

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

COLUMBIA MYRTLE CHAPMAN
NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XII

NATHANIEL GAINES CHAPMAN

Nathaniel Gaines Chapman was born at Bill's Knob on Gauley Mountain on June 2, 1869. In boyhood he attended the primary or country schools on Point Mountain. At Buckhannon in 1891 he attended the spring term of the Conference Seminary, forerunner of West Virginia Wesleyan College. There he became acquainted with Frank Butler Trotter and other men later known in the field of education. He received his first teacher's certificate, a number two, in the summer of 1891. On the Webster County board of examiners at that time were Superintendent Patrick W. Bruffey (father of Homer H. Bruffey), John M. Hoover, and Miss Dora McCray. In the summer of 1895 Gaines received a number one teacher's certificate.

In Webster County about the close of the century, schools were conducted during the summer for the purpose of preparing teachers and prospective teachers for examinations for certification. These schools were called "summer normals," "select schools," or "summer schools."

At Lower Point Mountain, in the summer of 1896, Gaines attended a summer normal school of three months taught by Professor J. E. Wise of Virginia. Also in the class were James M. Dodrill, Charles E. Hamrick, Bennett Gregory, Mary Gregory, Minnie E. Davis, Alice Chapman, George W. Chapman, Grant Chapman, Charles H. Chapman, and Ballard S. Hamrick. Gaines was a member of the board of examiners for the teachers' examination given in August that year. S. P. Allen was a member of the board, and Homer H. Bruffey was chairman of the board and county superintendent of schools.

During the eleven-year period between 1891 and 1902 Gaines taught 16 terms of school. Three years he taught on a number two teacher's certificate, and eight years on a number one certificate. For five years he taught two terms a year, some of the terms being for only three months. He taught the following schools for the number of terms given: Lower Point

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Mountain 2; Upper Point Mountain 1; Laurel Fork of Holly River, near the Brady farm and above Jumbo 2; Sugar Creek 2; Lost Run on Laurel Creek 1; Back Fork Mountain 2; Clevenger School on Back Fork River 2; Upper Elk River 1; Chestnut Bottom Ford 1; Removal on Holly River 1; Wolf Pen on Elk River 1. During the spring and early summer of 1903, Gaines, in conjunction with Professor Fielden Tenny, conducted a select school of three months at Webster Springs.

In the Democratic primary election on May 23, 1902, Gaines was a candidate for superintendent of the schools of Webster County. According to returns printed in **The Webster Echo** he received 604 votes and M. T. Hoover, his opponent, received 405 votes. In the election on November 4, 1902, Gaines received 1,041 votes and G. N. Thomas, his opponent, received 719 votes.⁸⁴ This was before the days of woman suffrage.

Gaines served as superintendent from July 1, 1903, to April 15, 1907. The State law provided that the superintendent should be "a person of good moral character, of temperate habits, literary acquirements, and skill and experience in the art of teaching."⁸⁵ The salary was \$500.00 per year with the provision that three dollars should be deducted from this amount for each and every school within the county that the superintendent did not visit. Payment of the salary was made quarterly. The superintendent made arrangements for teachers' institutes, assisted in conducting them, conducted teachers' examinations, and was ex-officio president of the county board of examiners.

Toward the close of the first year Gaines was superintendent there were 101 schools in Webster County.⁸⁶ There were over

⁸⁴ Other successful candidates in the election were E. H. Morton, house of delegates; B. C. Conrad, circuit clerk; P. M. McElwain, county clerk; S. J. Dodrill and H. R. Boggs, county commissioners.

⁸⁵ *West Virginia Code of Laws*, 1906, sec. 1643.

⁸⁶ Report of Gaines Chapman, in *Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Schools*, 1904, pp. 2; 213.

Elementary enrollment in Webster County for the school year 1941-42 was 3,901, and the average daily attendance was 3,362. *W. Va. Blue Book*, 1942, p. 615. The white race claimed 100 per cent of the pupils. The total population of Webster County increased from 8,862 in 1900 to 18,080 in 1940. The assessed valuation of all classes of property in the county in 1941 was \$8,864,806. *Ibid.*, pp. 454; 582. The trend of these figures turn some light on the reason for comment among educators in West Virginia on the decreasing ratio of children to the total population of the State.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

Noted TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE. Grade No. 100

GOOD FOR YEAR 1896
THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That *Wm. C. Chapin* is a person of good moral character, competent to teach and govern a common school, and has passed an examination in the following branches with the annexed results:

ORTHOGRAHY	96	U. S. HISTORY	94	TOTAL PERCENTAGES	1103
READING	95	STATE HISTORY	74	AVERAGE PER CENT	77 3/4
PENMANSHIP	90	GEOGRAPHY	75	LOWEST PER CENT IN ANY ONE BRANCH	75
ARITHMETIC	98	BOOK-KEEPING	72		
ENGLISH GRAMMAR	90	CIVIL GOVERNMENT	80		
PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE, ETC.	74	THEORY AND ART OF TEACHING	70		
GENERAL HISTORY	80				

Issued 8 day of May 1896
Wm. C. Chapin County, W. Va. *Examiner* *President*

Board of Examiners

EXPLANATION - Grade No. 1 indicates a general average of 90 per cent. on a scale of 100 per cent. and not less than 75 per cent. on any one branch; No. 2, a general average of 80 per cent. on any one branch; No. 3, a general average of 70 per cent. and not lower than 60 per cent. on any one branch.
Section 28 of the School Law requires the teacher to file duplicate of his Certificate with the Secretary of the Board in the district in which he is employed, and the Secretary is required to so endorse same on the Original. This should be done before the school begins, and at the close of the term, when the Teacher makes his Report of Enumeration, the Secretary should return to him the duplicate of his certificate, if it be for two or four years, that the Teacher may file it again the ensuing year with the Secretary of the District in which he may be employed. The Secretary need not endorse on back of Duplicate, but must do so on back of Original.

ORIGINAL

NATHANIEL GAINES CHAPMAN

3,000 pupils enumerated, 100 per cent of whom belonged to the white race. Total enrollment in the schools was about 2,400. The total value of all taxable property in the county was \$1,500,000. Magisterial districts of the county were Glade, Fork Lick, Hacker Valley, and Holly.

In 1907 the county superintendents cooperated in writing a history of education in West Virginia. Following is an extract from the history:⁸⁷

WEBSTER COUNTY

GAINES CHAPMAN, Superintendent

Suitable material for writing the early history of education in Webster County is very meager. The "master" who ruled with the rod left no journal of his success or failure. This lack of written information must be supplied from the memory of the oldest inhabitants, which is not always reliable.

No schools were taught in the territory now embraced in Webster County till the year 1835. The first schoolhouse was erected by the Hamrick brothers on Elk River, about six miles above Webster Springs, and William [Benoni] Griffin was employed by these brothers to teach their children three months for ten dollars and board.

Of the pioneer teachers in the county we mention the following: William Kain, William and Samuel Given, Israel Clifton, Jonathan Griffin, Joseph Woods, Timothy Holcomb and Frank Duffy.

One of the peculiar features of these subscription schools in this county was that the teacher sometimes allowed the pupils to vote on the question of "open" or "closed" school. If a majority voted for "open" school, then each pupil must spell and read aloud while studying his lessons.

On account of disorganization of the county, the free school system was not carried into effect until 1868. Dr. C. W. Benedum was the first to teach a free school at Webster Springs in 1871. At that time but two families lived at the Springs, those of P. T. Duffy, afterwards Auditor of the State, and James Woodzell. Some of the pupils came for a

⁸⁷ *The History of Education in West Virginia; Revised Edition, Prepared under the Direction of the State Superintendent of Schools*, pp. 158-159.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

number of miles. The enrollment was 33. Among those who first taught in the free schools here were John Sawyers, J. B. McCourt and Jonathan Griffin.

Until recently our schools made slow progress. Teachers were deficient and their salaries were low. The financial condition of the county was not good and even with a maximum levy our schools could not be kept open longer than three or four months. But brighter days have dawned. A decade ago we had fifty-seven schools, but the recent development of the natural wealth of the county has enabled us to maintain over one hundred schools for the full legal term and pay our teachers salaries that will average with those of the State.

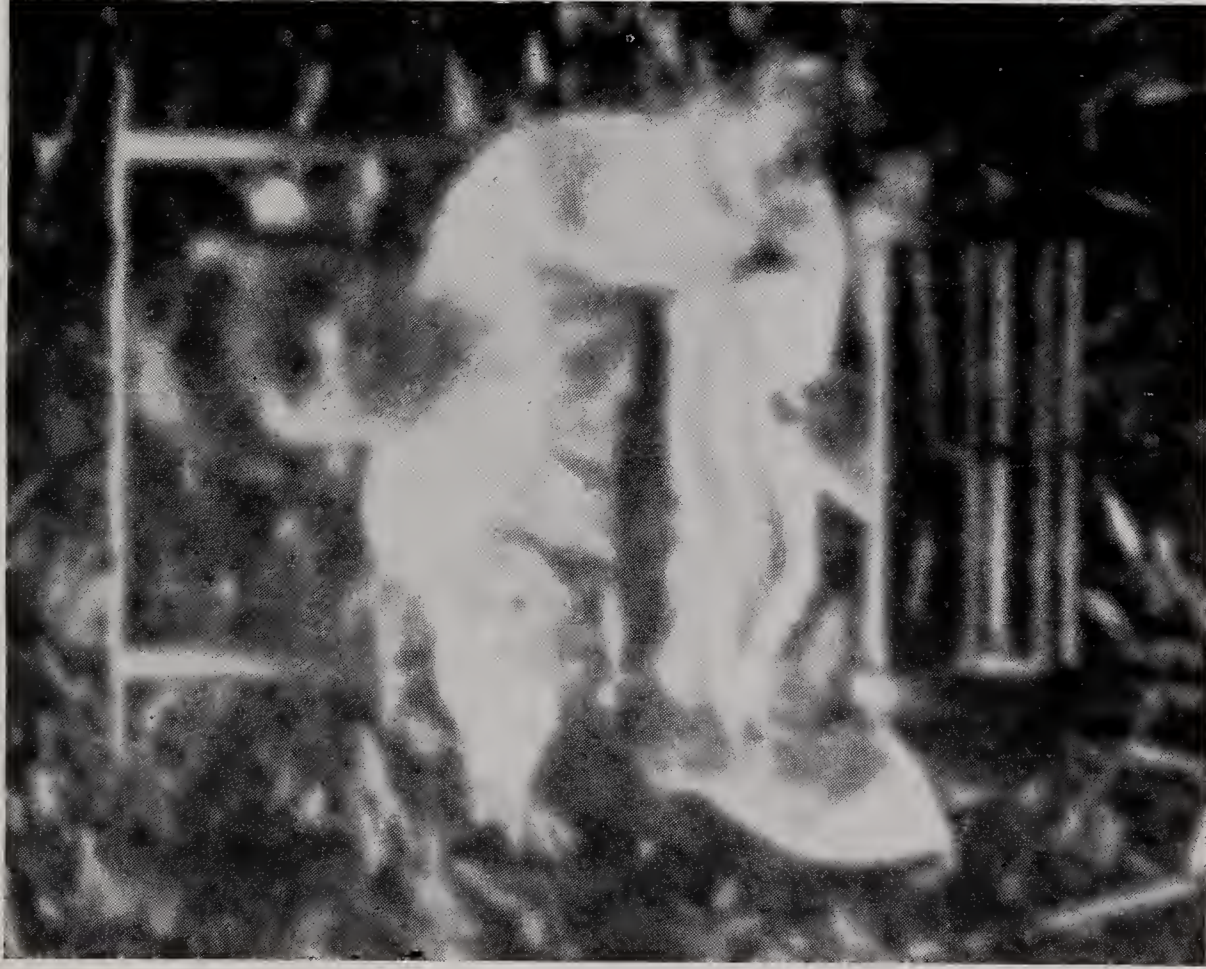
Summer normals have been the means of preparing the majority of our teachers for the profession. In 1890 Professor W. C. Dodrill opened a school of this kind at Haynes and has, with other good teachers, taught many successful terms since then. He has had an experience of twenty-five years and has been the means of accomplishing much for the cause of education in this county.

There is a general awakening to the importance of education in our county. The citizens of Glade district at the election of 1906 voted by a large majority to establish a high school at Cowen. Many of the schools now have small libraries. The enumeration of school youth in 1892 was 1,887; in 1906 it was 3,527. The following named persons have served as County Superintendent of Webster County in the order named:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Jas. Dyer | 7. P. W. Bruffey |
| 2. Dr. C. W. Benedum | 8. J. M. Hoover |
| 3. Noah Clifton | 9. H. H. Bruffey |
| 4. P. J. McGuire | 10. M. T. Hoover |
| 5. W. B. Stanard | 11. Gaines Chapman |
| 6. E. H. Morton | 12. Geo. R. Morton |

* * * *

Ten weeks before the expiration of his term of office, Gaines resigned in favor of George R. Morton, county superintendent-elect, who was appointed to fill the unexpired term. Already the schools had been visited, and most of the work of the year was finished. This resignation enabled Gaines to accept at once the position of Assistant Superintendent of the Smith



GAINES and KATE CHAPMAN at their home on Big Grassy Creek, 1906. Theron and Myrtle are on the steps;
Sterling is in the baby carriage.

NATHANIEL GAINES CHAPMAN

Brothers Lumber Company, then operating in the South. The day after his resignation he left for Wisner, Louisiana.

On September 11, 1893, Gaines married Lillie Kate Smith of Valley Head in Randolph County. To them were born four children: Theron Ogden, October 16, 1894; Myrtle May, November 15, 1896; Ernest Zenith, October 30, 1901; and Sterling Warden, March 27, 1906.

Theron, on September 1, 1932, married Gertrude Summers. Their home is at 723 Lexington Avenue, Springfield, Missouri. Theron is a mechanic for the San Francisco Railway Company.

Myrtle is supervisor of nurses in the McCleary Sanatorium, Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Ernest died on March 4, 1902, in infancy, and was buried in the Chapman cemetery on Point Mountain.

Sterling married Chrissie Pearman on June 3, 1928. Their home is at 969 Kimbrough Avenue, Springfield, Missouri. They have two children, Paul William (born September 22, 1931) and Harmon Bruce (born May 8, 1937). Sterling is office manager at Springfield for Producers Produce Company.

From 1893 to 1897 Gaines lived on a farm near Woodzell, on Point Mountain. For about five years he lived on a farm on Point Mountain, near Waneta. His home from 1903 to 1907 was on a farm on Big Grassy Creek, near Orndoff.

Gaines was appointed notary public for Webster County in 1892 by the governor, and held the office till he left West Virginia in 1907. **The Code of West Virginia**, Fourth Edition, 1899, contains the following provisions relative to the powers of a notary public:

When any oath may lawfully be administered, or affidavit or deposition taken, within any county, it may be done by a notary thereof, unless otherwise expressly provided by law.

A notary under the regulations prescribed by law, may take within this county, acknowledgments of deeds and other writings, and the privy examination of married women respecting the same. He shall also be a conservator of the peace within his county, and as such conservator shall exercise all the powers conferred by law upon justices of the peace.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Notaries shall have authority to demand acceptance of foreign and inland bills of exchange, including checks, and to demand payment thereof, and of negotiable promissory notes, and protest the same for non-acceptance or non-payment, as the case may require; and perform such other duties as by the law of nations or commercial usage may be performed by notaries public.

Gaines wrote a few wills. Many old papers in Webster County bear his official signature, some of which are on record in the Office of the County Clerk.

In Nebraska on March 18, 1907, Gaines made homestead entry for 602.23 acres of land adjoining the homestead occupied by his brother, Grant.⁸⁸ It was all good grazing land, and about half of it was cultivable. Gaines established actual residence on the land on September 12. On January 19, 1909, he made an additional homestead entry for 40 acres. From the government he bought 120 acres for \$150.00, receiving a final certificate therefor on February 24, 1910.⁸⁹ Both of these tracts joined his homestead.

His principal crops were corn, wheat, oats and potatoes. On December 11, 1912, when he made final homestead proof he said: "There never was a night but what some of us were there on the claim since our settlement." At that time he had fenced all his land, and had broken and cultivated about 30 acres of it. He used the land principally for grazing his stock. He had about 20 horses there of his own and about 10 horses for other persons, and a few cattle. Among his improvements were a seven-room sod house, frame barn, sod barn and sod cow shed, two board corralls, a sod corrall, milkhouse, washhouse, farm granary, a well, windmill and tank. In making final proof his witnesses were Albert C. Wright and Leonard A. Dean. A final certificate was issued to Gaines on December 31, 1912, and on April 17, 1913, patent no. 326603

⁸⁸ Gaines' homestead file is in Washington, D. C., General Land Office, Alliance, serial no. 06429. This file includes four letters in his handwriting. His original homestead entry was in township 24 north, range 52 west, north half of section 19, and the southwest quarter of section 19 and the southwest quarter of section 18.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, serial no. 02849.

NATHANIEL GAINES CHAPMAN

was issued to him for lands on which he had made homestead entry. Gaines sold the homestead on November 30, 1915.

On August 11, 1913, Kate Chapman made a desert land entry for a tract of 320 acres of land near Moffat, Colorado,⁹⁰ By October 1914 she and Gaines had expended the sum of \$705 for the ultimate reclamation of the land. Improvements included making one mile of ditches, about eight feet wide at the top; digging three surface wells developing water for irrigation, the wells being 38 feet, 40 feet, and 65 feet respectively; building wire fences, breaking and clearing land, and the building of a barn. By a deed of January 11, 1915, Kate assigned the southern half of the land to William E. Thackrey on the payment of \$300.⁹¹ On September 1, she assigned the remaining 160 acres to Bettie O. Thackrey, wife of William E. Thackrey.⁹² Patents for their respective lands were issued to William and Bettie on August 19, 1925.

In 1916 Gaines moved to Mountain Grove, Missouri, and resided there until 1934. Since then his home has been at 895 South Missouri Avenue, Springfield, Missouri.

During the summer of 1891 Gaines was a clerk in Isaac W. Curry's store in Addison. From August 1905 to April 1907, while he was county superintendent of schools, he was store manager in the store of the Smith Brothers Lumber Company at Orndoff. For the company he was assistant superintendent at Wisner, Louisiana, during the summer of 1907. At Malinda, Nebraska, Gaines was elected precinct assessor and served from 1910 to 1912 inclusive. He is a Democrat. During the first World War when every person was urged to "do his bit," and while Theron was in the army at Camp Travis, Texas, Gaines went to Nitro, West Virginia and worked for the Thompson Sterritts Construction Company, and for the Hercules Powder Company. He worked at Nitro from September 22, 1918 to January 1, 1919.

At Mountain Grove, Missouri, Gaines owned a half interest in a general store from November 1919 to February 1920. He

⁹⁰ The land occupied was by the New Mexico meridian, township 43 north, range 10 east, west half of section 28.

⁹¹ The deed and other papers are in Gen. Land Office, Pueblo, serial no. 048072.

⁹² The deed and other papers are in *ibid.*, Del Norte, no. 03072. The deed calls for "one Dollar and other valuable Considerations not herein mentioned."

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

served as manager of the Farmers Exchange at Mountain Grove from 1920 to 1929. At the termination of this period the exchange had a paid capital of \$15,000, a reserve of \$6,000, and was doing an annual business of about \$250,000. In the exchange were about 400 members. From 1927 to 1933, Gaines was chairman of the board of directors and president of the New Mountain Grove Bank.

Kate Chapman died on January 20, 1929, and was buried in the Hill Crest cemetery at Mountain Grove, Missouri.

On September 3, 1929, Gaines married Sallie Hovis, a widow, whose maiden name was Brooks. She was born near Roanoke, Virginia.

At a meeting held in the Lower Point Mountain schoolhouse in February 1886, Gaines was converted, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which church he was already active. He remained a Methodist until 1919, and then joined the Southern Missionary Baptist Church. For 18 months (January 1, 1912 to July 1, 1913), he traveled as a Sunday School missionary over the portion of Nebraska known geographically as the "panhandle." This work was under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gaines has been a Sunday School teacher most of his life. He joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Addison in 1892. He became a Mason in 1922, his membership being at Mountain Grove, Missouri. He advanced later to the degree of Knight Templar.

Gaines has a diary which he has faithfully kept since January 1, 1912.

Should a member of the Chapman family, a young man 20 years old desiring to make good in the world, visit Gaines at Springfield, and in the midst of the hospitality of his host ask for some fundamental advice, Gaines would decline by asserting his incompetency to give advice. But if the young man persevered in his request, he could get from Gaines a philosophy of life on this order:

"No teacher in the schoolroom can succeed as he should without the confidence and good will of his pupils. By frankness hold the confidence of pupils. In addition to his regular



GAINES AND SALLIE CHAPMAN during the year of their marriage, 1929.

NATHANIEL GAINES CHAPMAN

duties the teacher should seek to build character by counsel and **example**.

"As for politics, inform yourself and vote; but stay out of politics.

"In marriage remember that no more sacred ordinance was ever ordained by God than the union of husband and wife. Every young man should select a wife. Home is the most important, and should be the most sacred, place on earth. There should be a child or children in the home. Love for the child, by the parents, prompts the parents to nobler deeds and elevates the soul. It is the duty of husband and wife to make each other happy. If one brings sorrow to the other, intentionally, it is little short of murder for it shortens life. They should cultivate confidence in each other and seek each other's happiness. 'The way to be happy is to make others happy.'

"In church and religion we should heed the words of Jesus who said: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' Therefore the Golden Rule promptly kept will solve all religious questions. No man's foundation is solid without faith and trust in God.

"In business every young man should cultivate energy and alertness. Remember that the old saying, 'Honesty is the best policy,' is true. A clear conscience is worth more than gold. Avoid all get-rich-quick schemes."

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

NATHANIEL GAINES CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XIII

GEORGE WILLIAM CHAPMAN

George William Chapman was the middle child in a group of thirteen. He was born March 17, 1871, at what is now Bergoo. When he was about three years old, the family moved to Point Mountain which place was his residence until February 10, 1903. At that time he moved to Sugar Creek and cut timber for the Ranwood Lumber Company.

In September 1903, he moved into the woods on Big Grassy Creek, built a log house, cleared a farm, and lived there until August 1913. Then he moved to Hyannis, Nebraska, with the intention of taking a homestead, but finding no land available he returned in a few weeks and took up residence at Bolair, West Virginia. In October 1914, he moved to a farm on McGuire Mountain overlooking Webster Springs, and lived there until January 1, 1925. He moved to Webster Springs and resided there until December 14, 1939, when he moved to Kissimmee, Florida. He was the last in the group of thirteen brothers and sisters to find a home outside the borders of Webster County. This was in part due to his contentment in the county and his loyalty to it.

In the grades George attended three schools: Lower Point Mountain, Wolf Pen, and one at Hacker Valley near the present site of the Vance school. At Addison (Webster Springs) in 1894 he attended a summer school of three and a half months taught by Miss Ozina Bee; and at Lower Point Mountain in 1896 he attended the summer normal, of three months, taught by Professor J. E. Wise.

By county examination he received on August 24, 1893, a teacher's certificate, grade number three. The board of examiners consisted of John M. Hoover, Homer H. Bruffey, and J. S. Cogar. Teachers holding a number three certificate were paid \$18.00 a month. On September 6, 1894, George received a grade number two certificate; and on August 5, 1896, he received a grade number one certificate.

He taught the following schools, the dates being approxi-

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

mate: Diana, Sept. 1893-Nov. 1893; Grassy Creek, Nov. 1893-March 1894; Diana, March 1894-May 1, 1894; Diana, Sept. 1894-Jan. 4, 1895; Mill Run, Jan. 6, 1895-April 18, 1895; Big Run, Aug. 1895-Nov. 1895; Wolf Pen, Nov. 1895-March 1896; Bergoo, a five months term, beginning Nov. 1, 1896; Mill Run, three months and three weeks in 1897; Chestnut Bottom Ford, a term of five or six months beginning in the fall of 1899; Skidmore, a six months term beginning in October, 1914.

George Chapman and Alice Anderson were married on April 8, 1896, and to them were born three children: Landon Lincoln, Berlin Basil, and Daisy Virgie.

In our country throughout the nineteenth century the general hope of the dollar-chasing youth was to establish a business of his own and make it prosperous. He felt that working for someone else was slightly demeaning to an independent American.⁹³ George was in harmony with this philosophy. To work by the day on public works had little attraction for him. He preferred the schoolroom or a farm of his own.

At the age of 16 George joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Since 1907 his interest in religion has been mainly in Christian Science. In 1927 he became a member of the Amelia T. Swalley, C. S. B., Students Association, Tampa, Florida. On Point Mountain, Big Grassy Creek, Miller Mountain, Sand Run, at the Skidmore school and at Kissimmee he had a part in Sunday School work, as teacher or otherwise. To him Sunday is in the fullest sense of the word a day of rest, seasoned with the ideal of spiritual and intellectual growth. At Webster Springs in 1922 he joined the order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. In the early 'twenties he observed with some interest the wave of activity carried on by the Ku Klux Klan.

In Fork Lick district in November 1920 he was elected justice of the peace, receiving in the election more votes in that district than any other candidate for any office. He served as justice of the peace from Jan. 1, 1921, to Dec. 31, 1924; as deputy sheriff, jailor, and county treasurer from Jan. 1, 1925 to September 30, 1927, when he resigned. He

⁹³ Robert E. Riegel et al., *An Introduction to the Social Sciences* (1941), vol. 1, p. 39.



GEORGE AND ALICE CHAPMAN with their children at Sugar Creek, 1903. Children, left to right, Berlin, and Landon.

GEORGE WILLIAM CHAPMAN

served as justice of the peace from Jan. 1, 1929 to Dec. 31, 1932, and from Jan. 1, 1937 to Dec. 11, 1939, when he resigned. His most interesting campaign was that of 1928 in which he spanned the link between the office of deputy sheriff and that of justice of the peace, a transition often politically fatal. He has always been an ardent opposer of liquor.

Because Billy Chapman and half of his sons served as justice of the peace, we may glance at the kind of cases they heard and at notations they left behind. George's docket books at Webster Springs are a fair example. Flop open a book of civil cases and read the record he wrote:

Case No. 473

R. H. Kyle and Company

A Corporation, Plaintiff

vs.

W_____ C_____, Defendant

State of West Virginia, County of Webster, to-wit:

In a civil action before G. W. Chapman, a Justice of the Peace, for said county, District of Fork Lick.

State of West Virginia, the 20th day of July, 1931.
The plaintiff files a probate account for \$42.01.

Summons issued on the 20th day of July 1931, returnable on the 25th day of July 1931, at 10:00 a.m., and placed in the hands of M. W. McCourt, C. W. C. [Constable of Webster County].

Date July 20th, 1931, summons returned endorsed as follows, to-wit:

Executed the within and hereto annexed writ: In Webster County, West Virginia, this 20th day of July, 1931, by delivering a true copy thereof to W_____ C_____ in person. M. W. McCourt, Constable.

July 25, 1931. On this date the undersigned Justice was present at the place and hour named in the summons for trial and neither party appeared. Trial is had⁹⁴ and after considering all evidence in the case

⁹⁴ The student of judicial nomenclature will observe that this was a default judgment on evidence for failure of defendant to appear. The court of the justice of the peace has been better known as a "poor man's forum," echoing traditional clauses, than as a model of legal formality, either in conduct or expression.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

the Justice rendered the following judgment.

July 25, 1931. Judgment rendered in favor of R. H. Kyle and Company, a corporation, against W_____ C_____ for the sum of \$42.07 aggregate of principal and interest to date, with interest thereon from this date until paid, and costs.

G. W. CHAPMAN, Justice
1st ex. issued July 25, 1931, and placed in the hands of M. W. McCourt, C. W. C.

1st ex. returned satisfied by M. W. McCourt, C. W. C. Sept. 21, 1931. Justice's costs \$3.50 paid by M. W. McCourt, C. W. C. Sept. 21, 1931.

* * * *

If we open a book of criminal cases, we find the following:

State of West Virginia

vs.

F_____ A_____ for a Felony

Upon complaint and information of Anthony K_____ before me, G. W. Chapman, a justice for Webster County, West Virginia:

In pursuance to the above complaint, I, G. W. Chapman, Justice aforesaid, issued a warrant directed to the sheriff of said county. Upon the 1st day of August 1939, said sheriff, Dock Cutlip, executed said warrant by bringing before me, G. W. Chapman, Justice aforesaid, at my office in said county and District of Fork Lick, the above named defendant charged as in said complaint and warrant that he, the said F_____ A_____, on the 1st day of August 1939 in said Webster County and State of West Virginia did unlawfully, feloniously and violently attack, assault, strike, beat, wound and ill-treat one, Anthony K_____, to-wit, with dangerous and deadly weapons called an iron pipe and a rock. And then and there caused the said Anthony K_____ to suffer great pain and damage, and against the peace and dignity of the State.

Now on this the 1st day of August 1939 the defendant, being arraigned, says for his plea that he waives examination.

GEORGE WILLIAM CHAPMAN

The defendant is therefore required to give bond in the sum of \$500.00 that he shall personally appear before the circuit court of Webster County on the first day of the next term thereof, then and there to answer a bill of indictment to be preferred to the Grand Jury in and for said county and not depart without leave of said court.

And he failing to give such bond was sent to the county jail to await the action of said Grand Jury.

G. W. CHAPMAN, Justice

Justice's costs \$3.50 paid by county court.

* * * *

In 1930 George was appointed a jury commissioner by Hon. Jake Fisher, Judge of the Circuit Court, and served in that capacity four years. He considers this office the most important he ever held. The record of his appointment, and that of Mr. Frank Smith, is as follows:

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
WEBSTER COUNTY, to-wit:

At a regular term of the Circuit Court for Webster County, West Virginia, held at the Courthouse thereof on the 6th day of May, 1930, the following order was entered of record.

It appearing to the Court that conforming to Chapter 32 of the Acts of 1929, it is the duty of the Court to appoint Jury Commissioners for Webster County, and that by operation of law the terms of the present Jury Commissioners have expired, the Court doth hereby appoint G. W. Chapman and Frank Smith, citizens of good standing, residents of Webster County and of opposite politics, being well known members of the political parties thereof, and duly qualified in all respects as such Jury Commissioners, the said Smith for the term of two years and the said Chapman for the term of four years, each term to date from June 1st, 1930, and said Commissioners may qualify in writing before the Clerk of this Court in vacation.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

A TRUE COPY FROM THE RECORD:

ATTEST G. W. Jackson, Clerk
Circuit Court of Webster
County, West Virginia.

* * * *

George considers requirements for a good, efficient justice of the peace too numerous to list. Among those qualities he would include for a justice the following:

1. He should be a man of good, common understanding.
2. He should be a good jurist, open to conviction and **not** biased or prejudiced toward anyone.
3. He should know the **law**.
4. He should give **due** consideration to all witnesses and be careful to weigh all evidence.
5. He should not hesitate to enforce the law without fear or favor toward anyone.
6. He should be on the alert, always ready to work and not lazy or slothful in business.
7. He should pay promptly to any party money collected and due him.
8. He should keep an office large enough for a few spectators and keep it in a clean, sanitary condition.
9. He should abstain from all intoxicants, and immoral conduct.

George welcomed prohibition, believed in its merits, and deplored its departure. In his opinion the production and consumption of whisky in the long run contributed only to the injury, not to the improvement, of society. He believed, and still contends, that it is not a human impossibility for Webster County and West Virginia to be made dry, and maintained that way. The low ebb of drink in Webster County about 1922 was definite advancement toward that end. Nor does George favor the tapering-off process in drink. Rather he would lay the ax "unto the root of the trees."

If asked why he is and always has been an ardent opposer of liquor, George would say something like this:

In my early childhood, Mother often pointed out to her children the evils of drunkenness and the miseries it brought about. I listened to her stories and in later years I saw she had told the **truth**.

GEORGE WILLIAM CHAPMAN

A drunk man is insane so long as the drunkenness lasts. He is likely to commit felonies, wound the feelings of his best friends, make bad trades and disgrace himself or his friends in various ways. I have in my lifetime watched this very carefully. A man who sells liquor (if he lives long enough) will die a poor man. I clarify this by saying—if he sells it in any way. This is an infallible rule in all cases so far as I have known.

In most cases where a man was brought before me on a charge of drunkenness or of selling intoxicating liquor, he was not able to pay his fine. What we need for the successful maintenance of prohibition is a favorable public opinion, confidence in the country's power to abolish drink, and officers who would enforce the law, and who could not be **bought off**.

In August 1926, Federal officers passed through Webster County and while there laid plans for the capture of a still operating on the Back Fork of Elk River. The officers were not familiar with the country, and the raid was known to be a dangerous one. They asked George, who was a deputy sheriff, to go with them. He consented, and was appointed a United States marshal for the duration of one day. The added authority was intended as self-protection and for making arrests. There were nine officers in the group. They arrested a moonshiner and destroyed the still together with a considerable quantity of mash, wine and liquor. One operator of the still made good his escape.

In economic philosophy George has always held rather firmly to the orthodox theories of capitalism. He is a Democrat. Little has he said to justify union activities of labor, or the social relief policies of the New Deal. The policy of intervention-for-defense found him somewhat confused, but since the world is passing through a period of inflated nationalism, it can be said that he is keeping step with those on the trail.

As already stated, George and Alice have three children. Landon was born on Point Mountain, January 16, 1899. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1926 and from the Law School of the University of Chicago in 1930. Since

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

1930 he has been a practicing lawyer in Chicago. He specializes in Bankruptcy law, maintaining offices at 127 North Dearborn Street. He is a member of the National Lawyers Guild, the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. On January 2, 1932, he and Darroll Jessamine Swanson were married. They have two children, Howard Landon (October 2, 1934) and Bruce Kerry (December 1, 1940), and live at 84 Lawton Road, Riverside, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

Berlin was, for three summers, a visiting instructor in the College of the City of New York. He is associate professor of history and government in the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, and a life member of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Daisy received the degree of A.M. at West Virginia University, is past counsellor of the Junior Academy of Science in West Virginia, and is a member of the faculty of the South Charleston high school in that State. On November 24, 1939, she and Patrick Newton Dorsey were married. Their home is at 504 Elizabeth Avenue, South Charleston, West Virginia. Daisy has conducted educational tours for teachers, some being to Cuba and others to the Pacific coast.



DAISY VIRGIE CHAPMAN, about 1938.

GEORGE WILLIAM CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XIV

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

Addison Grant Chapman was born at Leatherwood on November 23, 1872. He was named for Addison Dodrill and U. S. Grant, the latter being re-elected President of the United States during the month that Addison Grant was born. Grant Chapman's formal education began with the opening of Log Cabin school in 1878. He was the youngest of the six children of the Chapman family to frequent the school taught by Kate Arthur. The only primary or country school he ever attended was that at Lower Point Mountain.

In 1896 Grant attended the summer normal taught by Professor J. E. Wise, and that summer he received a number two teacher's certificate. About 1897 he received a number one teacher's certificate. During the late 'nineties he taught the schools at Upper Grassy Creek, Upper Back Fork, and Back Fork Mountain.

For about six months Grant operated a store on Point Mountain. He subsequently had a store at Centralia, one at Bakers Run, and one at Roanoke, all in West Virginia.

From March 19, 1892 to 1900 Grant was married to Georgiana White of Lee Bell in Randolph County. Her friends shortened her name to "Anna." Like Grant, she was reared on a farm. Children born to Grant and Anna were Nettie Bell, Glyde Bernice, and Denver Hobson.

Anna was industrious, managed her home with ability, and was devoted to her family. Her ambitious spirit left a lingering trace in the memory of the Chapmans, themselves, quickly inclined to "bless" those that cursed them, but hardly within the meaning of the Holy Writ. Anna never lived outside of West Virginia. The last decade of her life was spent in the vicinity of Huttonsville, where her daughters grew to womanhood. Denver Hobson died in childhood. Anna died March 26, 1913. Nettie and Glyde each have lived outside of West Virginia about 20 years, mostly in Baltimore and Cumberland, Maryland; Montgomery, Alabama; and Zanesville, Ohio.

On July 5, 1902, Grant gave his address as Blaine, West

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Virginia, and enrolled as a student in Williamsport Commercial College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.⁹⁵ He subsequently studied at the University College of Medicine in Richmond, Virginia, learned the barber's craft in Kansas City, Missouri, and about 1913 he took a course in the West Virginia Business College in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

In the meantime, July 15, 1903, Grant married Eunice Clevenger of Skelt in Webster County. He preferred the name "Icie" to "Eunice," and in accordance with his preference, she always used that name. To Grant and Icie were born seven children: Hugo Grant, Carl Bierce, Vivian Rosetta, Myrna Marie, Max Lawson, Sylvia May, and Charles Richard. "Max Lawson," a nickname Icie applied during the childhood of her third son, is one much better known than his name of record, "Gaines Thomas Chapman."

The trek of Chapmans West during the first decade of the twentieth century can be traced in part to a West Virginian, Moses Pierce Kinkaid, born near Morgantown, and who was a Representative in Congress from Nebraska from 1903 to 1922. Kinkaid sponsored an act bearing his name and providing that entries made under the homestead laws on certain lands in Nebraska should not exceed in area 640 acres, and should be as nearly compact in form as possible and in no event over two miles in length.⁹⁶ A minimum of five years residence was a prerequisite to receipt of a final certificate. At the time of making final proof the entryman must prove affirmatively that he had placed, upon the lands entered, permanent improvements of the value of not less than \$1.25 per acre for each acre included in his entry.

Grant was the first of the Chapmans to file on a homestead in the West, "prove-up" and receive a final certificate and patent therefor. It is proper that we trace the footsteps of this restless traveler and examine the trail he blazed searching for something better than his environment offered. It is not strange that Grant was the first of the five children to find a home in Nebraska. A quarter of a century earlier the Mace family had gone West and returned. Grant was a student of current events and would take cognizance of the passage

⁹⁵ Records of Williamsport Commercial College.

⁹⁶ The Kinkaid act, passed April 28, 1904, is in 33 *Statutes*, 547. See also the act of May 20, 1862, 12 *Statutes*, 392.



GRANT AND ICIE CHAPMAN, about 1903.

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

of the Kinkaid act. He was usually willing to begin anew on a clean slate, and he apparently never lost hope of another chance.

In western Nebraska on November 11, 1905, Grant made homestead entry for a section of land in the southern part of Sioux County, near Malinda. As required by law, he paid the sum of \$14 as a fee and compensation to the register and receiver of the land office at Alliance.

On November 11 he made the usual non-mineral affidavit that he was well acquainted with the character of the above described land, having frequently passed over the same; that his personal knowledge of said land was such as to enable him to testify understandingly with regard thereto; that there was not, to his knowledge, within the limits thereof, any vein or lode of quartz or other rock in place, bearing gold, silver, cinabar, lead, tin, or copper, or any deposit of coal; that there was not within the limits of the land, to his knowledge, any placer, cement, gravel or other valuable mineral deposit; that the land contained no salt spring, or deposits of salt in any form sufficient to render it chiefly valuable therefor; that no portion of the land was claimed for mining purposes under the local customs or rules of miners or otherwise; that the land was essentially non-mineral land, and that his application therefor was not made for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining title to the mineral land, but with the object of securing said land for agricultural purposes.

Before Grant had served five years as a resident on his Nebraska homestead, he had as his neighbors two brothers and two sisters. John located on lands adjoining him to the west, Gaines settled on lands adjoining him to the southeast, while Columbia and Emma and their families lived only three miles away. Never before or since have five of the thirteen children maintained homes in such close proximity to each other.

About 1907 Grant taught a term of school, some four months in length. He was elected justice of the peace, and served from March 1, 1909 to January 11, 1910.⁹⁷ He was assessor for Lowell precinct in Sioux County, and served from about April 1, 1909 to June 30, 1910. He was a Republican.

⁹⁷ Records, Office of County Clerk, Sioux County, Harrison, Nebr.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Grant must have looked somewhat eagerly to the end of his five-year period, when he could sell his homestead, "get out of that," and settle somewhere else. In the **Minatare Free Press and Sentinel** he gave notice of his intention to make final five-year proof on his land. The notice contains 22 lines, ran for eight consecutive weeks, as was required by law, and cost him \$7.50.

John Chapman in 1910 was one of Grant's witnesses in his making final proof of the land. Among other things, John testified: "The claimant was assessor for the precinct in which the claim is located for two years, and during the assessment of the precinct he was absent a week at a time for three or four weeks. This last fall he was absent about six weeks for employment. That is all his absence except a day or two occasionally, working for his neighbors."

Let us read Grant's own words in the making of final proof, as they are preserved in the General Land Office in Washington, D. C.⁹⁸

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

H O M E S T E A D E N T R Y

U. S. Land Office Alliance, Nebraska ,

No. 05792

Receipt No. 505628

F I N A L P R O O F

Testimony of Claimant

QUESTION 1. What is your full name, age, and post-office address?

ANSWER. My correct name is ADDISON G.

CHAPMAN. My age 38 years and my post-office address is Malinda, Nebraska.

QUESTION 2. Are you a native-born citizen of the United States, and if so, in what State or Territory were you born?

⁹⁸ Grant's homestead file contains 19 pages. The serial number is, Alliance 05792.

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

ANSWER. I am a native born citizen of the United States, born in W. Va.

QUESTION 3. Are you the same person who made Homestead Entry No. 10445—05792, at the ALLIANCE, Nebraska Land Office on the Eleventh day of November, 1905, for the

All

, Section 13,
Township 24 North, Range 53 West, of
Sixth Principal Meridian?

ANSWER. I am the identical person who made this entry.

QUESTION 4. (a) Are you married or single?

ANSWER. I am married.

(b) If married, of whom does your family consist?

ANSWER. My family consists of wife and three children.

QUESTION 5. (a) When did you first establish actual residence upon this land?

ANSWER. I established actual residence on this land May 8th, 1906.

(b) When was your house built on this land?

ANSWER. My house was built on this land in April 1906.

(c) Have either you or your family ever been absent from the homestead since establishing residence?

ANSWER. The family was not absent. I was absent some.

(d) If there has been such absence give the dates covered by each absence; and as to each

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

absence state whether you, your family, or both, were thus absent and the reason for each such absence?

ANSWER. In 1909 I was absent two weeks. In 1910 about two weeks and in October and November 1910 absent eight weeks. That is all my absence except that I was detained from home over night occasionally. I was away from the claim for employment.

QUESTION 6. Describe the land embraced in above entry by legal subdivisions, showing fully the character of same, and kind and amount of timber, if any.

ANSWER. There are about four hundred acres of the whole tract cultivable. The remainder is hilly. There is no timber on this land.

QUESTION 7. State by subdivisions the number of acres cultivated, kind of crop planted, and amount harvested, each year. How many acres of the claim are now cleared, or broken, and under cultivation? If used for grazing only, state number and kind of stock grazed each year and by whom owned.

ANSWER. I have broken and cultivated twenty acres of this tract. The first year I broke out five acres, and each year I added to the amount of breaking, and cultivated the broken ground each year except the past season there was part of it not cultivated. I raise crops of corn, potatoes, rye and oats, and wheat. The land is all enclosed with fence and cross fenced. I kept three or four cows and about the same number of horses there.

QUESTION 8. Describe fully and in detail the amount and kind of improvements on each subdivision. State total value of improvements on the claim.

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

ANSWER.

The house is on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13. I have a frame house 10 x 20 ft. with sod addition 16 x 26 ft., Value \$200.00; Sod barn 18 x 30 ft., Value \$50.00; Corral, lumber—\$40.00; Cellar 8 x 10 ft. \$50.00; Spring house \$15; Hen house \$10; Well, windmill, and cement cistern \$225.00; 4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of 2 wire fence \$300.00; Breaking \$80.00; Garden fence \$20; Trees \$50.00; Clearing the land of Loco Weed \$50.00.

QUESTION 9. Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade or business?

ANSWER. It is not within an incorporated town or site of a city or town or used for business.

QUESTION 10. Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the land? If so, describe what they are.

ANSWER. There are no indications of coal, salines or minerals on this land.

QUESTION 11. Have you ever made any other homestead entry? If so, describe the same.

ANSWER. I never made any other homestead entry.

QUESTION 12. Have you sold, conveyed, or agreed to sell or convey any portion of the land; if so, to whom and for what purpose?

ANSWER. I have not sold, conveyed or agreed to sell or convey this land or any portion of it.

QUESTION 13. Have you optioned, mortgaged, or agreed to option or mortgage, or convey this land, or any part thereof; if so, when, to whom, and for what purpose and in what amount?

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

ANSWER. I have not optioned, mortgaged or agreed to option or mortgage this land or any portion of it.

QUESTION 14. Have you any personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.

ANSWER. I have no personal property elsewhere.

QUESTION 15. Describe by legal subdivisions, or by number, kind of entry, and office where made, any other entry or filing (not mineral) made by you since August 30, 1890.

ANSWER. I made no other entry or filing for public land.

ADDISON G. CHAPMAN

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the deponent was examined separately and apart from the other witnesses in the case; that the foregoing deposition was read to or by deponent in my presence before deponent affixed signature thereto; that deponent is to me personally known (or has been satisfactorily identified before me by _____); that I verily believe deponent to be the identical person hereinbefore described, and that said deposition was duly subscribed and sworn to before me at my office, in ALLIANCE, Nebraska within the ALLIANCE, Nebraska land district, this Fourteenth day of December, 1910.

W. W. WOOD

Register

FINAL AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED OF HOMESTEAD
CLAIMANTS

I, Addison G. Chapman, having made a

ALLIANCE 05792.

4-1001-B.

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA, has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of ADDISON G. CHAPMAN has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the SECTION THIRTEEN IN TOWNSHIP TWENTY-FOUR NORTH OF RANGE FIFTY-THREE WEST OF THE SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, NEBRASKA, CONTAINING SIX HUNDRED FORTY ACRES,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said claimant the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever; and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, WILLIAM H. TAFT

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the FIRST day of MAY in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ELEVEN and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and THIRTY-FIFTH.

By the President:

By

Wm. H. Taft
McP. Le Roy
John B. Connell
Acting

Secretary,

Recorder of the General Land Office.

RECORD OF PATENTS: Patent Number 194040

6-2163

The first of five patents issued to Chapman families for homesteads in Nebraska.

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

Homestead Entry of the _____ All _____, Section
13 _____, Township _____ 24 North _____, Range _____ 53
West of Sixth Principal _____ Meridian, subject to entry
at _____ ALLIANCE, Nebraska _____, under section No.
2289 of the Revised Statutes of the United States,
do now apply to perfect my claim thereto by virtue of
section No. _____ 2291 _____ of the Revised Statutes of the
United States; and for that purpose do solemnly
swear _____ that I am a _____ native born _____ citizen of
the United States; that I have made actual settlement
upon and have cultivated and resided upon said land
since the _____ Eighth _____ day of May _____, 19 _____ 06 _____, to
the present time; that no part of said land has been
alienated, except as provided in section 2288 of the
Revised Statutes, but that I am the sole bona fide
owner as an actual settler; that I will bear true al-
legiance to the Government of the United States; and,
further, that I have not heretofore perfected or aban-
doned an entry made under the homestead laws of the
United States, except _____.

ADDISON G. CHAPMAN

* * * *

A final certificate was issued to Grant on December 31, 1910, and on May 1, 1911, patent number 194040 was issued as evidence that title to lands in the homestead had passed to him.⁹⁹

Grant lived on both coasts and traveled extensively in the eastern and northern States. He cut much timber and was an excellent miner. Wherever he worked he was known as a man who carried his share of the load. He liked essentials, but had little regard for details. Others he helped, but for himself to become a burden to another was beneath a pride he never lost.

In his later years Grant farmed in Webster County, and kept a store at Roanoke, West Virginia. At Roanoke he

⁹⁹ The patent is recorded in the *Records of Patents*, in the General Land Office.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

enjoyed the friendship of Mr. Gilbert Bowyer, of whom he said: "He is one of the few who will be honest with you."¹⁰⁰

With calmness, Grant observed the approach of the eventide of life when he should go the way of all the earth. He knew that Icie could not survive him long, because of her declining health. He wanted to go first, feeling sure that the children would help Icie as much as was humanly possible. At Roanoke, Grant passed away on November 8, 1940. Two months later, on January 7, 1941, Icie laid down earthly cares, and her spirit entered life eternal.

Grant was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To him life was more than meat, and the body than raiment. His favorite hymn was an old, familiar one:

Pass me not, O gentle Saviour,	Trusting only in thy merit,
Hear my humble cry;	Would I seek thy face;
While on others thou art	Heal my wounded, broken
calling,	spirit,
Do not pass me by.	Save me by thy grace.

CHORUS

Saviour, Saviour,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Carl, in a letter of June, 1941, paid a homely, but beautiful, tribute to his parents. He said: "They, the ones whom we so dearly love, who brought the seven of us children into this world, Papa who spent the best part of his life **under** the hills of West Virginia digging coal to feed us, and Mother who cared for us and washed and sewed and cleaned after us, and who loved us as only a mother can love, a love which only God can repay; they are resting side by side, in a beautiful spot under a spreading oak, in Mitchel cemetery at Roanoke **in** the hills of West Virginia."

In the memory of many of us live Anna, Grant, and Icie,

¹⁰⁰ One is reminded of Diogenes who walked through the streets of Athens in broad daylight, carrying a lantern, "searching for an honest man." Shakespeare, in *Hamlet*, says: "To be honest as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand."



CARL BIERCE CHAPMAN, 1942.

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

players on the stage of life, who between their entrances and their exits, showed many more virtues than frailties of mankind.

Grant has living nine children, and an equal number of grandchildren. Nettie's first husband was George Holsinger who died June 18, 1914, and who was the father of her only child, Helen Irene. On August 4, 1931, Helen Irene was married to Robert Dill, and they have one child, John Albert Dill. Their home is at Reedsville, West Virginia.

Glyde Bernice married James Cleveland Wilt and they have one child, James Clynton. On May 20, 1934, James Clynton married Anna Mary Schwper, and they have two children, James Larry and Joan Helene. Their home is at 708 Columbia Avenue, Cumberland, Maryland.

In his last days Grant entrusted to Myrna the management of his business affairs. Hugo is a sergeant in the United States Army, Max is with the Coast Guard, Charles is aboard the airplane carrier **Ranger**, and Carl expects to enter the armed service and make the quartette complete.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

CHILDREN OF
ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN and GEORGIANA WHITE
(MARRIED MARCH 19, 1892)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Nettie Bell	March 4, 1893	George Holsinger May 9, 1909 EdwardCromwell Zinn July 26, 1926	Helen Irene	Box 427 Parsons, W. Va.	
Glyde Bernice	Jan. 15, 1896	James Cleveland Wilt June 24, 1912 Albert August Horchler April 4, 1928	James Clynton	603 Henderson Ave. Cumberland, Md.	
Denver Hobson	Jan. 7, 1898				Nov. 11, 1901

(Continued on page 205)



GLYDE CHAPMAN WILT and her son, JAMES CLYNTON WILT, about 1927.

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

CHILDREN OF
ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN and ICIE CLEVENGER
(MARRIED JULY 15, 1903)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Hugo Grant	Sept. 28, 1905	Ethyl Brunk About Sept. 1939	Clifford Eugene		
Carl Bierce	Nov. 30, 1906	Elizabeth Bodish Nov. 29, 1929	Carl Eugene Donald Edward		
Vivian Rosetta	May 5, 1910	Phillip Bennett-Hore Sept. 26, 1936		409 Osborn St. Turtle Creek E. Pittsburgh, Pa.	
Myrna Marie	July 28, 1912	George Varner Felton April 6, 1942		700 Penn. Ave. Turtle Creek E. Pittsburgh, Pa.	
Max Lawson	Dec. 30, 1913	Amy Adams	Walter		
Sylvia May	Dec. 10, 1916	David Clawson Anderson March 1, 1933	Lovella Magdalene Judith Carlene	960 River Road Clarksburg, W. Va.	
Charles Richard	July 22, 1921	Mildred Cunningham Dec. 13, 1941			

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

ADDISON GRANT CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XV

JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN

John Richard Chapman was born September 5, 1876, the first of five children born on the Chapman farm on Point Mountain. His parents told him he was named for John Payne and Rev. Richard Arthur.¹⁰¹ After John was married he changed his place of domicile more than did any of his brothers or sisters. He has more children than any of them. Much of his life he spent as a farmer and merchant; and in politics he has enjoyed enough success to be in office a half dozen years.

John's earlier life on the Point Mountain farm, and his school days at Lower Point Mountain, were much like those of his older brothers, related above. In 1887 at Lower Point Mountain John became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the favorite church of the Chapmans of that time. Like Mahala, Sarah and Mary, he married at the age of 19. The name of his bride was Melvina Cogar, the date of the marriage, January 30, 1896. The friends of Melvina shortened her name to "Vina." During the year of her marriage she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at Fairview Mountain.

No less than nine times in West Virginia, John hung out his shingle as the owner of a store. At Skelt, Webster County, he had a store and was postmaster from 1905-06; and from 1911-12. At Jumbo in the same county he had a store and was postmaster, 1913-14. He owned a store at Newlon, Upshur County, 1918-19; one at Centralia, Braxton County, from 1921-22; and one at Newlon, again, in 1923. At Helvetia, Randolph County, he owned a store and was postmaster, 1924-25. He owned a store in Webster Springs, 1926-28; and from 1931-32 he had a store and was postmaster at Letter Gap, Gilmer County.

In addition thereto, John clerked in a store for the Holly Lumber Company, 1915-16; in a store for the Ranwood Lumber Company, 1917; and in a store for the Wilson Lumber Company from July 5, 1925 to July 1, 1926.

¹⁰¹ Cf. footnotes 11 and 33 above.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

John and Vina also lived in Nebraska, Arkansas and Florida. The course of their travels is so interesting as to merit more detailed consideration. They began housekeeping at Skelt in 1896; moved to the Silas Cogar farm on Laurel Fork of Holly River in 1898; moved to the Loman Brady farm on the same fork in 1899; moved to the Desert Fork of Holly River for a short time in 1901; moved to Diana in 1902; moved to Sugar Creek for a short time in 1902; moved to the Bob Cogar farm near Skelt in the summer of 1904; moved to the coal mine on Sugar Creek, 1904-05; moved to the Wesley Cogar farm at the head of the Desert Fork of Holly River in the summer of 1905; and moved to the store at Skelt in the autumn of 1905.

On June 5, 1906, John filed in the land office at Alliance, Nebraska, homestead application number 11038 for 640 acres of land in sections 14 and 15, township 24 north, range 53 west.¹⁰² This application was made seven months after Grant Chapman made homestead entry. John's land joined Grant's homestead on the west. John had about 200 acres cultivable, the rest being fit only for grazing. There was no timber on the land. In June, John erected a house on the land and established residence there.

In making final proof on August 16, 1911, John said that since establishing residence on the land his absence was limited to about a week and a half at one time, during which the family was on the claim; and that the family had been absent from the claim three nights since they went there in August, 1906.

John, in 1911, had 40 acres broken and in cultivation—his principal crops being oats, corn and hay. The claim was fenced. On the land he was pasturing about 50 head of cattle, partly his own and others he took for pasturing. Among his improvements were the following, with values given: a sod house, 18 feet by 24 feet, \$250; a frame barn, 24 feet by 20 feet, \$105; well, windmill and tank, \$202.50; frame granary, 10 feet by 12 feet, \$33; sod chicken house, 8 feet by 18 feet, \$15; cellar, 8 feet by 12 feet, \$25; five miles of wire fence, \$333.50; breaking \$160.

Under date of August 24, 1911, W. W. Wood, register at

¹⁰² John's homestead file is in the General Land Office, Washington, D. C. It is designated as Alliance, serial number 06052.

JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN

the land office at Alliance, signed John's homestead certificate. On February 8, 1912, patent number 246911 was issued to John for the land.

In the autumn of 1911 John and Vina moved to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and lived there until the spring of 1912; moved then to the store at the Isaac Cogar farm at Skelt, West Virginia; moved to the store of the Ranwood Lumber Company on the Back Fork of Elk River in the autumn of 1912; and moved to Miller Mountain, near Webster Springs, in the summer of 1913.

John and Vina in the autumn of 1913 moved to Malinda, Nebraska. In Wyoming, during October, Vina made a declaration of application for a desert land entry near Torrington, but abandoned same, as already explained.¹⁰³ John and his family returned to Webster County, and located at Jumbo in the spring of 1914; moved to Lick Run in the spring of 1915; moved to the William Cutlip farm for a short time; moved to the store at the David Cutlip farm; moved to Lower Lick Run with the store in the autumn of 1917; returned to Jumbo for a short time; moved to the store operated by David Cogar on Sugar Creek in the spring of 1918; moved to Newlon, Upshur County, in the autumn of 1918; moved to Red Rock in the same county in the spring of 1920; moved to the mine above Helvetia, Randolph County, in the autumn of 1920; moved to Centralia, Braxton County, in the autumn of 1921; moved to Prestonia, in the same County, for a short time; returned to Centralia in the autumn of 1923; moved back to the mine above Helvetia for a short time; and moved to the store at Helvetia.

To Webster Springs John and Vina moved in the spring of 1925. John bought a farm at Fruitland Park, Florida, and with his family lived there from the autumn of 1926 to the spring of 1927, when they moved to the store at Bergoo, Webster County. The family moved to Otto, Roane County, in the autumn of 1928; moved to Letter Gap, Gilmer County, in 1930; moved to St. Marys, Pleasants County, for the summer of 1931; moved to Normantown, Gilmer County, for a short time.

In 1932 John and Vina moved to Webster Springs; moved

¹⁰³ See p. 142 above.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

to the Dyer farm near Bolair in the fall of 1932, and lived there until November 3, 1935; moved to Antioch, Mineral County, and lived there until November 4, 1940; moved to Frenchton, Upshur County, and lived there and at Grand Camp, near by, two years; moved to a farm near Belington, Barbour County, December 22, 1941.

No less interesting, than their travels, are the 19 children of John and Vina, 16 of whom are living. The children form a congenial, united group whose devotion to their parents and to each other has meant many happy days to all of them. The older girls married, and devoted themselves to maintenance of homes. And as Gaines Chapman well says, "Home is the most important, and should be the most sacred, place on earth."

Some of John's sons entered the service of the Federal government. Sherman was a guard on the island of Guam during the first World War. Gordon has been with the marines 20 years, and is a platoon sergeant. Gorman has served 16 years in the navy. It is known that he was aboard the airplane carrier **Wasp** just before the ship was torpedoed by the Japanese on September 15, 1942. John Wilson Chapman is a sergeant in the army.

Since August 1, 1924, Emil has been employed in St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, D. C. He is engaged in psychiatric work, and his wife, Alma Lucille Chapman, is an assistant supervisor in the hospital.

Of the grandchildren of John and Vina, 31 are living and 3 are deceased.¹⁰⁴ There are 3 great-grandchildren.

In Nebraska, John was a school trustee from 1907 to 1908. In Sioux County, where he lived, he was elected justice of the peace and served from January 11, 1910 to March 17, 1910.¹⁰⁵ He subsequently served as assessor in the precinct in which he lived.

John was elected justice of the peace in Holly district,

104	NAME	BORN	DECEASED
	Howard William Cogar	Feb. 13, 1924	Feb. 13, 1924
	Wilbur Thomas Chapman	Jan. 20, 1935	Jan. 26, 1935
	Russell Melton Chapman	July 22, 1941	July 22, 1941

¹⁰⁵ Records, Office of County Clerk, Sioux County, Harrison, Nebraska.



FAMILY OF JOHN AND VINA CHAPMAN, September 5, 1931. First row, left to right: Lonie Robert, Clyde Columbus, Roland Brown, Ward Welt, Ruth Naoma, John Wilson, and Mary Ella. Second row: Gorman Thomas, Rosa May, Ollie Maggie, Avis Nettie, Della Mable, and Clara Jane. Third row: Gordon Lee, Victor Bliss, John Richard, Melvina, Emil Emerson, and Sherman Shackelford.

JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN

West Virginia, and served from November 3, 1914 to April 6, 1915.¹⁰⁶ He subsequently served in the same district as secretary to the board of education.

At Hacker Valley, John became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the winter of 1911. At Newlon in the autumn of 1918, he joined the Knights of Pythias; and at Webster Springs, in the winter of 1925, he joined the order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

From his youth, John has been possessed with a sort of unconquerable optimism that the future merits confidence. Vina, too, has been possessed with somewhat more than a fair degree of good cheer. Religion for them is a matter of home as well as of church. John and some of his children have been active in local groups assembled for singing songs, especially those of a religious nature.

Should one of John's nephews, a young man 21 years old, be on the verge of entering the store business in Webster County, and should he go to John and ask for some tips gained from years of practical experience, the young man would be advised about as follows:

"The first thing is to know how to keep books. Then be very careful in buying goods, so as not to overstock on any one thing. Always keep the store clean and nice, and display goods in every way possible.

"The next thing is always to be truthful, honest, and on the square, so that the customer can depend on what you say. Always give the children attention. Last, but not least, always meet the trade with a smile, and be sociable and kind."

¹⁰⁶ Records, Office of County Clerk, Webster County, Webster Springs, W. Va.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

CHILDREN OF
JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN and MELVINA COGAR
(MARRIED JAN. 30, 1896)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Foster	Dec. 3, 1896				July 26, 1898
Clara Jane	Dec. 13, 1897	Son Draper Cogar Mar. 1915	Vanzil Ancil Geneva June Mable May Robert Reynolds Howard William James Edward		Dec. 10, 1940
Sherman Shackelford	March 6, 1899	Opal May Ogden Aug. 28, 1928	Charles Richard Earl James Sherman Rex	Colorado Springs, Colorado	
Emil Emerson	Jan. 13, 1901	Alma Lucille Wilberger Nov. 12, 1928	Helen Lucille Virginia Lind	3021 9th St. S.E., Washington, D.C.	
Gordon Lee	Sept. 2, 1902	Mary Agnes Royer Nov. 29, 1935	Donald Lee Russell Melton	Buckhannon, W. Va.	
Della Mable	July 29, 1904	James Marvin Ogden Feb. 1, 1925	Opal Emma James Marvin, Jr.	Persinger, W. Va.	

JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN

CHILDREN OF
JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN and MELVINA COGAR
(Continued)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Victor Blis	Feb. 27, 1906	Edna Virginia Lanes Jan. 12, 1927	Alice Melvina Orvil Lee Dale Ellis Carl Eugene Mary Jane Wilbur Thomas Ruby Luella	1505 W. Main St. Springfield, Ohio	
Gorman Thomas	Dec. 10, 1907	Juanita Virginia Shobe April 5, 1940	Gorman Neal, Jr.	8628 Kearsarge Place Merrimack Park Norfolk, Va.	
Mary Ella	Oct. 1, 1909	Larence Vinson Mick Dec. 22, 1928	Waldo Brown Clarence Richard Dollie Dee Peggie Lee	Cowen, W. Va.	
Rosa May	May 18, 1911	Coy Russell Jamison Dec. 26, 1931	John Williams	Glenville, W. Va.	
Ollie Maggie	Dec. 27, 1912	Lloyd Burrell Huff May 22, 1932	Denzil Dwain Donald Lloyd Jessie Hoke Rose Mary Carroll Jean	Glenville, W. Va.	

(Continued on page 218)

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

CHILDREN OF
JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN and MELVINA COGAR
(Continued)

GIVEN NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	CHILDREN (Given Names)	ADDRESS	DECEASED
Grover	Feb. 10, 1914				Feb. 12, 1914
Avis Nettie	April 25, 1915	John D. Christian Jan. 5, 1935		Cowen, W. Va.	
Lonie Robert	Nov. 23, 1917			Ravenswood, W. Va.	
Clyde Columbus	Jan. 18, 1919	Goldie Ruth McCartney Oct. 26, 1941		New Carlisle, Ohio	
John Wilson	April 27, 1920			Fort Bragg, N.C.	
Roland Brown	Jan. 18, 1922	Sarah Ellen McCartney July 13, 1941		French Creek, W. Va.	
Ruth Naoma	Aug. 21, 1923			Belington, W. Va.	
Ward Welt	Dec. 11, 1926			Belington, W. Va.	

JOHN RICHARD CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XVI

CHARLES HENRY CHAPMAN

Charles Henry Chapman was born May 23, 1878, on Point Mountain. He was the second and last child born in the Chapman home located on the portion of the farm designated as the head of Coal Bank Run. His early life, including his school days at Lower Point Mountain, was not unlike that of his brothers nearest his age. When he was eleven years old, his father died. Already the appellation of "Charley" had attached itself to the youth, and he always retained it among his friends.

On Point Mountain in 1896 Charley attended the summer school taught by Professor J. E. Wise. That year, at the age of 18, he received a number three teacher's certificate, and began a period of teaching which included the following schools: Laurel Fork of Holly River, Red Oak Knob, Back Fork of Elk River, and Chestnut Bottom Ford. During the late 'nineties Charley attended a summer school at Bergoo taught by R. Moore Dodrill, and one at Bolair taught by Homer H. Bruffey, or W. C. Dodrill.

During the spring, about 1901, Charley and Harmon Chapman worked at Meadow Mountain in Maryland, peeling tan bark. After the bark season ended, they went to Grantsville, Maryland, and worked in the woods, cutting timber for the Wabash Lumber Company, until school opened in the autumn. Harmon returned to Valley Head, West Virginia, to enter school and Charley went to Frostburg, Maryland, and worked in a store.

The first years of the century were decisive ones for Charley. On April 8, 1902, he married Hilda Virginia Ware, whom her friends affectionately called "Jennie." Her home was at Mill Point in Pocahontas County. Charley gave her much credit for accomplishments he attained in those early, trying years. He was a salesman for a firm at Frostburg, Maryland, and was selling blankets at the time of their marriage. He mined coal at Blaine, West Virginia, working for

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

the Kitzmiller Coal Company. At Henry, West Virginia, he worked for the Davis Coal and Coke Company.

On September 19, 1904, Charley entered the University College of Medicine, School of Dentistry, Richmond, Virginia. Admittance was granted for the reason that his rank and experience as a teacher was equivalent to that of the holder of a number one teacher's certificate.¹⁰⁷ Charley graduated on May 21, 1907, receiving the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Following is a transcript of his work, secured by courtesy of the University:

FIRST YEAR, 1904-05		SECOND YEAR, 1905-06	
Anatomy	75	Bacteriology	88
Anatomy, Practical	80	Physiology	89
Chemistry	60	Anatomy	90
Histology	90	Principles of Surgery	87.5
Medical Physics	83	Dental Materia Medica	92
Operative Technics	80	Prosthetic Dentistry	80
		Dental Surgery	84
		Operative Technics	80
		First Year Anatomy	82
		Chemistry	82
THIRD YEAR, 1906-07			
Orthodontia	98	Oral Surgery	93
Prosthetic Dentistry	79	Dental Surgery	88
Dental Pathology and		Dental Technics	87.4
Therapeutics	83.5	Infirmary and	
		Laboratory Practice	97.6

Charley took a two-year post graduate course, and for a few years practiced dentistry in Richmond. By approval of boards of dental examiners he qualified to practice in West Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, and by virtue of reciprocity could have practiced in several other States, if not in all of them.

About 1911, while on a visit at Jennie's home, Charley practiced dentistry for a few weeks at Greenbank in Pocahontas County. At Bolar, Virginia (near Warm Springs) he practiced a few months, about 1913. His principal work as a dentist was at Webster Springs where he maintained an office from 1911 until his death in October, 1918.

On one occasion John Skidmore, a prominent business man of Webster Springs, went to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for an operation of the face and ear, resulting from

¹⁰⁷ Charley held a number two teacher's certificate, but because of his successful teaching experience, it was considered among educational circles in Webster County that he held the equivalent of a number one teacher's certificate.



CHARLEY AND JENNIE CHAPMAN, 1903.

CHARLES HENRY CHAPMAN

defective teeth. Charley, then at Philippi, West Virginia, was called to the hospital to assist in the operation. He was recognized in a few years as one of the leading dentists of the State and, considering the short duration he engaged in the profession, he promised to be one of the most successful.

To Charley and Jennie three children were born: Rue Ermil, born January 29, 1909, and died September 12, 1921. Blyn Merrill, born February 19, 1911, and Charles Henry, born January 23, 1919. Blyn is engaged in aircraft construction for the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company, Baltimore, Maryland. Charles is a welder for the same company. He lives with his mother at 43 E. Montgomery Street, Baltimore.

Blyn, on January 11, 1933, married Kathleen Florence Mollohan, and they have two children, Denzil Merle and Marvin Blyn. The family lives at Middle River, Maryland.

Early in life Charley joined the Methodist Episcopal Church on Point Mountain. In 1905 he became a member of the First Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, and thereafter was active in the work of that faith. When they lived at Webster Springs Charley and Jennie attended annually the meetings of the Elk Valley Baptist Sunday School Convention. For a time Charley was clerk and secretary of the convention.

During his last years the present Alderson-Broadbush College at Philippi was a Baptist preparatory school, known as Broadbush Institute. The president was Rev. Elkanah Hully, who with his Baptist friends, was interested in elevating the institution to the rank of a college. Charley was a trustee of Broadbush Institute, and each year contributed money toward its support. He intended to send his sons there when they were ready for college. The great influence that Rev. Hully had with young people was a decisive factor in this intention. Each summer Charley and Jennie attended the assembly at the institute, frequented by Baptist ministers and church workers from all parts of the State.

In Sunday School and in Sunday School conventions Charley exerted a wholesome influence. At Webster Springs he played a cornet in the church choir. Jennie played the church organ. They took pleasure in entertaining, in their home, ministers and missionaries who visited the church.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Charley contributed annually to the support of the Orphans Home at Elkins. His youth was somewhat akin to orphanage, and orphans had his sympathy. He had a special interest in young people who were trying to amount to something worth-while in the world.

About 1910 Charley joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; and about 1912 he joined the order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. In Webster Springs during 1915 and 1916 he was a member of the Town Council.

West Virginia approved a prohibitory constitutional amendment in 1912. Approval was preceded by the usual amount of commotion between wets and the reformers. Charley, like his brothers and sisters, embraced the cause of reform. Among other things, he made public speeches in Webster County. With him he took the human skull he kept in his office. At these speeches in churches and schoolhouses, usually at night, rustics ranged around and many of them for the first time gazed upon the awful form of a skull, the head of a man with only the flesh and odor removed.

With such an object on exhibition, anything a doctor said would merit close attention of spectators, even though it dealt with a scheme of their getting along without legalized liquor. Ostentatiously the skull was for the purpose of explaining unwholesome effects of alcohol on the body, especially on the brain. But Charley could not have been unmindful of the psychological effect, almost shocking, of bringing the skull into a public assembly in a one-room schoolhouse in pre-Ford days.¹⁰⁸

Charley lacked the physical vigor that his brothers enjoyed. He suffered from hay fever, and bee stings were serious injuries for him. He was keenly aware of the low resistance of his heart to pneumonia fever, the scourge that claimed his life in the early hours of the quiet, moonlight morning of October 17, 1918. Jennie followed his advice to retire to a farm in West Virginia, in case of his death, and there rear their boys. Charley was the only one of the thirteen children to live fewer years than either his father or mother. He died at the

¹⁰⁸ Local importance of the skull may be illustrated by a story concerning Carl B. Chapman, when he was about five years old. Carl was asked what work he expected to follow when he became a man. He replied: "I want to be a dentist. Do you know where I can get a skull?"



BLYN CHAPMAN at his home near Beverly, W. Va., July 1934.

CHARLES HENRY CHAPMAN

age of 40, and was buried in the Chapman cemetery on Point Mountain. Rue, too, is buried there.

This writer recalls that about 1917 he prepared a high school oration on the subject of "American Inventors," and submitted same to Charley for criticism and suggestions. Charley wrote the following notation and appended it to the manuscript:

"Now let us come home for a few thots. Our own Webster County is on the map. The Hollister saddle-stirrup spring which is used and enjoyed by our horse-backers on these rough, mountain roads was invented by Mr. Hollister of the Glades.

"Also Mr. V. D. Hart, a former resident of Webster Springs, invented the adjustable saddle which was to be used either for a man's saddle or a lady's side saddle. This saddle was so made that either a young gentleman and his sweetheart, or a man and his wife could ride it, provided, of course, that one only should ride at a time."

Reverend Rufus M. Dodrill, Pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, wrote the following tribute to Charley:

Dr. C. H. Chapman was one of the few men I, as a young man, really admired. I was associated with him from 1914 to 1918, when I was 18 to 22 years of age. His life had been full of hard work, and after graduating from the "University of Hard Knocks," he admired the young man who followed in his trail. Dr. Chapman took a great interest in me and we became very close friends. Few will ever know the splendid influence he had on my life and career.

Within the four-year period, I was President of the Fork Lick District Sunday School Convention, and of the Webster County Sunday School Convention. There was not a convention that I did not have Dr. Chapman on the program for at least two addresses. We literally rode horseback all over Webster County to attend these meetings.

Few men were better posted on Sunday School work than Dr. Chapman. I still use, in my Sunday School of approximately 2,000 members, a great many

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

of the ideas I learned from him. Time and again he paid my expenses to the Elk Valley Baptist Sunday School Convention. It seemed to thrill him that I was going to be a Baptist minister. He was like a father to me and we had hours and hours of confidential talks together. The years have proved his sound and wise counsel. Someday—and time will be without end there—I expect to sit down in the councils of heaven with my long lost friend, Dr. C. H. Chapman, and tell him of his influence on my life and career.

One of the saddest days of my life was in Camp Lee, Virginia, when I received the word that my good friend had gone to his heavenly home. It was then that I realized that we are born for a higher destiny than that of earth. There is a realm where the rainbow never fades; where the stars will be spread out before us like the islands that slumber on the ocean; and where the beautiful beings that here pass before us like visions will stay in our presence forever.

Of his last resting place on Point Mountain I could truly say with Fitz-Greene Halleck:

Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of my better days!
None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise.



CHARLES H. CHAPMAN, JR., 1942.

CHARLES HENRY CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XVII

ADAM LUTHER CHAPMAN

Adam Luther Chapman was born on Point Mountain, January 29, 1880. He attended the schools at Lower and Upper Point Mountain; one term he attended a school Gaines Chapman taught on the Back Fork of Elk River. In his earlier life Adam farmed and cut timber. For two and a half years he worked in the mines of the Davis Coal and Coke Company, as machine operator and machine boss.

On November 22, 1907, he entered the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D. C., as a skilled helper. In 1909 he was transferred to the plate finishing department. He completed his apprenticeship in 1913 and became an engraved steel plate finisher, which position he has held continuously since that time. During the first World War when employees in the government were called on to give every hour of their services possible, day or night, Adam established the record of 33 hours of continuous service without sleep. During the 35 years he has served in the bureau, his annual salary from the government grew from \$660 to \$3,100.¹⁰⁹

Adam married Annie Rebecca Sanford on June 3, 1911. Their home was in Washington until 1920, and since that time has been at 3134 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia. To them was born one child, Edna Mae, on September 3, 1914. Edna owns the Arlington Village Beauty Salon, the largest beauty salon in Arlington County. She employs five operators. On May 11, 1940, she and John Trussel Hall were married. Their home is at 812 South Glebe Road in Arlington.

If a young man of the Chapman family had just received an appointment as a skilled helper in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and asked Adam for some tips on how to get started in the bureau, and make some advancement there, Adam would tell him something on this order:

“First of all, be on time to begin work promptly at the stated time, as it is conceded that one who makes

¹⁰⁹ *Official Register*, 1909, vol. 1, p. 219; *Budget of the United States Government*, 1943, p. 882.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

a practice of reporting late for duty is late all day long.

“Second, show interest in what you are employed to do, and try to earn far more than the salary paid you. Try to improve working conditions. Increase the product of your work at less expense to your employer. If possible advance new methods whereby the work can be handled with greater dispatch, and always try to do your work just a little better than the other fellow is doing his work. When this has been accomplished, your superior will see the justness of an increase in salary because it is earned.

“Third, moral conduct is a mighty big thing; and so is your attitude toward others. Recognize the rights of others, yet fight if necessary for your own. Respect others as they deserve, and demand what you deserve. Keep clean in person, and aid in keeping your surroundings in a sanitary condition. Be honest in all dealings as pertain to your position, and also in any financial dealings with fellow employees. When these principles are adhered to for a sufficient time, you will command the respect of all, and **surely** such things will be known to your superior.”

Just as the Davis Coal and Coke Company impressed upon Adam the importance of a man earning an increase in salary before he gets it, so Adam would pass on the same idea to the young skilled helper. When Adam terminated work with the company, James G. Boyd, the superintendent, gave him the following letter:

“This is to certify that the bearer, Adam Chapman, has been employed for the past two years at mine No. 22, of the Davis Coal & Coke Company, as machine runner and machine boss. I have found him a man of good morals, a hard worker and always at his post of duty. A man who makes his work a study, and who is well up in all work relative to machinery. He also keeps an eye on his employer's interest, and does not hesitate to report anything, that comes under his observation, which he thinks his employer should know. I cheerfully recommend him to anyone who may be on the lookout for a man of this kind. We regret very much that



ADAM LUTHER CHAPMAN, 1939.



ANNIE SANFORD CHAPMAN, 1939.

ADAM LUTHER CHAPMAN

we cannot hold him in our employ, owing to his being desirous for something more than we have to offer." The letter was of great help to Adam after he went to Washington.

In the business world Adam has had adventures. In 1927 he played an important part in financing the Prudential Building and Loan Association of Washington, D. C., in which association he owned account no. 64. At the second annual stockholders' meeting he was given a rising vote of thanks for securing the largest cash deposit in the life of the association. The deposit was for \$30,000, divided among three parties, living 120 miles from Washington. Adam owns 160 shares of the capital stock of the association.

In 1933 he helped to finance and organize the Metropolitan Building Association of Clarendon, Virginia, in which association he owned account no. 12, and 20 shares of the capital stock. He served on the board of directors (the committee of appraisals) for two years, and then resigned to give time to more important matters. He owns a substantial interest in the association.

With some hesitation, and a little fear, he began investing in second trust notes on real estate in Arlington County. Investment was based principally on his knowledge of the value of real estate in Arlington. Profits were great, and fortunately, he has not suffered a single loss. His holdings in that business have become substantial.

Recently he has given attention to the purchase of real estate for investment purposes. He owns several houses in the Westmont section of Arlington, and jointly with his wife owns other properties in Arlington County. He has in King George County, Virginia, a tract of land purchased in 1927. On the Rappahannock River, at Sharps, in Richmond County, he has a valuable piece of land where he expects to make his home after retiring from the government service on November 30, 1942.

In March 1906 Adam was accepted as a member of Golden Rule Lodge No. 21, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Washington, D. C. In January 1921 he joined the Arlington Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Adam has a diploma considered to be the first ever conferred by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It came about in this way. Adam was accepted in Columbia Lodge No. 285 at Clarendon, Virginia. In the lodge he was raised to the degree of Master Mason, September 20, 1924. He found that no member of the lodge had ever completed the work of the third degree as was required in the first and second degrees. Work in the third degree was requested, but was not compulsory. This appeared to be the case among Masonic lodges throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Albert Elzie Dye and Adam, members of Columbia Lodge, entered into an agreement to complete the work of the degree of Master Mason. Having done so, they notified the worshipful master that they were ready for examination. The Grand Lecturer of the Commonwealth arranged for an examination in Columbia Lodge in the presence of its members, and of visiting members of other Masonic lodges. Dye was directed to do the questioning, Adam the answering, for the three degrees of the Blue Lodge.

When the work was finished the Grand Lecturer stated that it was as near perfect as he had ever witnessed. The Grand Lodge voted that, at its own expense, the two participants be awarded diplomas for their labor. On presentation of the diplomas, Dye was absent, and Adam being present received his diploma first.

Much interest was aroused among Masons in various lodges to complete the work of the degree of Master Mason, and receive diplomas. But the Grand Master directed that each lodge grant its own diplomas, and this was done. Apparently the only diplomas ever conferred by the Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Virginia were the two granted to members of Columbia Lodge.

Like his father, Adam believes that the serious things of life are of the greatest consequence. Like his brothers, he has not strayed far from the orthodox theory of capitalism, with its freedom of enterprise, private property, and confidence in the individual. His home, his church and his work remain centers of his interest.



EDNA MAE CHAPMAN, 1939.

The Most Worshipful
Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons
of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Chas. Callahan Grand Master

To all whom these Presents may concern Greeting:

Know Ye that the bearer hereof our trusty and well
beloved Brother Adam Luther Chapman hath been regu-
larly initiated into the mysteries of **ANCIENT FREE MASONRY**
passed to the degree of **Fellow Craft** and raised to the sublime
degree of **MASTER MASON** & hath performed all his works
as a member of **Columbia Lodge No. 285**
under our jurisdiction to the entire satisfaction of the Brethren.

Therefore we have granted him this Diploma & do hereby
recommend our said Brother to the attention and consideration
of all **ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**, who are good
and true to whom he may present himself and that this said
Diploma may not be of use to any one else we have caused
our said Brother to sign his **COMMON** signature in the margin.

Given under the hand of the **M. Wor. Grand Master**
and the seal of the **GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA** this 18 day of
May Anno Domini 1925 Anno Christi 1925.

Wts

Chas. A. Webbitt Grand Secretary

First diploma conferred by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M., of the Common-
wealth of Virginia.

ADAM LUTHER CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XVIII

EMMA VIRGIE CHAPMAN

Emma Virgie Chapman was born on Point Mountain on February 20, 1882, being the youngest daughter of W. F. M. Chapman and Nancy Chapman. She, Adam and Harmon were born in the home at the head of Granddaddy Run. Emma attended the schools at Lower Point Mountain, Wolf Pen, and Red Oak Knob. Sometime during her years at these schools, Gaines taught the first one, George the second, and Charles the third. Emma also attended a term of school at Upper Point Mountain taught by Bennett Gregory.

About 1897 Emma attended a summer school at Bergoo, taught by R. Moore Dodrill; in 1898 she attended one at Webster Springs taught by Marsh Hoover and David Cochran; in 1899 one at Haynes on Williams River, taught by R. Moore Dodrill; in 1900 one at Webster Springs taught by R. Moore Dodrill and Marsh Hoover; and in 1904 one at Webster Springs taught by a Professor Hughes.

In a church house Emma taught the first school conducted at Panther Lick, near the mouth of Sugar Creek. This was her first school. She had a number three county certificate, and taught three months, October to December, 1898. Thereafter to 1907 inclusive, she taught the following schools for the number of terms given: Back Fork 1; Jumbo 3; Desert Fork of Holly River 1; Diana 1; Sugar Creek 1; Chestnut Bottom Ford 1; Brown's Mountain 2; Hugh Morgan school at Delila 1; Fairview 1; and Grassy Creek 1. The terms of these schools were three, four or five months. In 1900 Emma received a number one certificate.

In the spring of 1906, after the close of her school on Brown's Mountain, Emma went to Skelt where she clerked in John Chapman's store, and was assistant postmaster. As already explained, John established residence in Nebraska in June 1906. Wesley Cogar at that time bought the store at Skelt and became postmaster. Emma continued in her former capacity until her school opened at Fairview in the

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

autumn. When we remember that she was an orphan at the age of 13, we realize that she deserves much credit for accomplishments in the field of education.

At Skelt, West Virginia, on June 23, 1907, Emma and Walter James Cogar were married. She was the only one of W. F. M. Chapman's daughters not married in the Chapman home on Point Mountain. Walter Cogar was a nephew of Wesley Cogar, and had been reared at Skelt. Children born to Walter and Emma were Robert Sterling, April 30, 1908; Charley Glen, September 5, 1909; Arden Harley, December 4, 1910; Wesley Duaine, February 23, 1914; and Harmon Alvin, January 23, 1923. Emma, like Sarah, had five children, all boys.

Emma says, "Rovers we've been." The family located on Laurel Fork of Holly River; then on Spillman Mountain at Fairview.

It will be remembered that Wesley Cogar made homestead entry for lands in Nebraska in August 1909. On July 27, 1910, Walter, age 23, made homestead entry for 640 acres in sections 32 and 33 in township 25 north, range 52 west.¹¹⁰ The family remained there less than a year, for at Skelt, West Virginia, on August 15, 1910, Walter signed a relinquishment of the land. The land was declared officially relinquished on January 16, 1911. At the time of abandonment and afterward Walter had improvements on the land that cost him the sum of \$300. Gaines Chapman, his agent, sold these improvements for that sum, but Walter received nothing for relinquishing the claim. To this fact Gaines testified.

For a time Walter and Emma lived at Sugar Creek. Then they moved to their original location on Laurel Fork of Holly River.

From Pickens, West Virginia, on January 15, 1913, Walter wrote to the Secretary of the Interior, saying in part: "I want to go West again and I wish to have my right restored to file on free land again." The right was accorded him and on May 23 he made homestead entry no. 015976 for 160 acres, located near Malinda, Nebraska, and about two miles from

¹¹⁰ Walter Cogar's homestead papers are in Washington, D. C., Gen. Land Office, Alliance, serial no. 012096. See also *Nebraska Tract Book*, vol. 60, p. 179. Walter was born March 17, 1887.



EMMA VIRGIE CHAPMAN, 1904.



Above, photo taken at the home of Walter and Emma Cogar, on Spillman Mountain, September, 1921. First row, left to right: Blyn Chapman, Duaine Cogar, and Rue Chapman. Second row: Glen Cogar and Arden Cogar. Last row: Hugo Chapman and Sterling Cogar.



Berlin B. Chapman



Beverly E. Cogar

EMMA VIRGIE CHAPMAN

John Chapman's claim.¹¹¹ The quarter section Walter occupied was all good grazing land, and about 80 acres of it could be cultivated. He built a house on the land in July, and established residence there, August 1.

In 1914 he had six acres in corn; that acreage he doubled the next year, and in 1916 he had 16 acres in cultivation. He had 22 head of stock, and used the land for grazing. The land was fenced. On it were the usual improvements made by settlers. The register of the land office at Alliance signed Walter's homestead certificate on August 30, 1916.

Emma taught a seven-months term of school in 1916-17, taking Sterling, Glen and Arden to school with her. They drove with horse and buggy three miles from their home to school. Emma was paid \$50.00 per month. She recalls that on one occasion the temperature fell to 40 degrees below zero. Each of the three boys received a perfect attendance certificate for the school term.

On January 27, 1917, patent no. 564467 was issued to Walter for lands in his homestead. The family soon returned to the farm they formerly occupied on Spillman Mountain in Webster County. They subsequently lived in Webster Springs, at Haywood (Lumberport, W. Va.), and Rices Landing, Pennsylvania. About 1929 the family moved to Elsinore, California, and lived there three years. Nearly two years they spent at Bradbury Heights, near Washington, D. C.

In 1934 Emma entered the business of operating rooming houses, and has occupied the following locations in Washington, D. C., northwest: 1330 Vermont Ave., April 20, 1934 to March 1, 1936; 1327 Fairmont St., March 1, 1936 to June 24, 1937; 1348 Irving St., June 24, 1937 to Oct. 1, 1939; 3323 Holmead Place, Oct. 6, 1939 to Feb. 1, 1941; 1327 Columbia Road, April 26, 1941—. One of these houses, real estate and furniture, sold for \$10,400.

At the age of ten, Emma joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at Lower Point Mountain, and has since remained a member of that church. Her interest in religion exceeded denominational limits. Since 1909 she has been interested in reading Christian Science literature, and in Washington she

¹¹¹ The 160-acre tract was located in the center of section 34, township 24 north, range 53 west; *Nebraska Tract Book*, vol. 61, p. 108.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

frequents meetings of the Christian Science Church. Like her brothers and sisters, she believed that the consumption of liquor could and should be suppressed by Federal law. At Haywood, she served as treasurer of the local organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

In Washington on October 12, 1929, Robert Sterling married Dorthy Higbee. For some years he worked for the Sanitary Grocery Company of that city, and became manager of one of its stores. He died October 6, 1937.

Charley Glen is a trainman in Washington for the Capital Transit Company. At Haywood, West Virginia, he married Vonda Hazel Cole on November 18, 1928. They have three children, Nina Jean, Vonda Kathleen, and Glenna Pauline. Their home is at Capitol Heights, Maryland.

Arden Harley and Harmon Alvin reside with their mother. Wesley Duaine married Stella May Moser on April 12, 1937, and they have two children. The first bears the full name of his father. The second, Robert Earl, was born July 17, 1942, just in time to be included in this study. Duaine was manager of a store for the Sanitary Grocery Company in Washington for two years and is now in the employment of the Safeway Stores of that city. His home is at West Lanham, Maryland.



THE FIVE SONS OF WALTER AND EMMA COGAR, 1932. Left to right, Glen, Duaine, Sterling, and Arden. Harmon, youngest, is in front.

EMMA VIRGIE CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XIX

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

Harmon Alvin Chapman was born on June 16, 1884, being the thirteenth and last child in the family. "Alvin H. Chapman" was the name his father, Billy Chapman, recorded in the Bible. On only a few occasions did the intensity of a situation register in Harmon's memory a picture of his father. One occasion was the salting of cattle, that came up with necks extended, breathing deeply, with frequent exposures of the tongue, and Harmon clung to his father for protection. Billy appeared to enjoy the interest, if not the uneasiness, with which his son observed the cattle.

Harmon remembers the Sunday that Billy last spoke in classmeeting at the Lower Point Mountain schoolhouse. He recalls that sometime during the last illness of his father, he climbed upon the balustrade of the porch and, as a physical accomplishment, tried to peer through the window to see him. Harmon was five years old when his father died, and he recalls the event clearly.

Now that Harmon has lived more years than Billy lived, he says that his father must have had a hard time earning a living for the family in a period darkened by war, and impeded by the clumsiness of hand labor in mountains. Harmon wishes he could have known his father better, that Billy's life might have been more prolonged, and that he might have helped him to enjoy some of the more modern phases of living.

When the lad entered school he learned to write his name, "Harmon Chapman." In later years he inserted the "A." By consistent use this became his name, the legality of which was recognized by the Civil Service Commission.

At the age of eleven Harmon was left an orphan, because of the death of his mother. The older children, especially Gaines, took an interest in making or securing a good home for him. Harmon went to Blue Springs in Randolph County,

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

and lived at the home of Adam E. Folk until he was 17 years old. He then went to Davis and worked for the Blackwater Lumber Company. For one year he worked for the Kitzmiller Coal Company at Blaine. At Henry he worked 10 months for the Davis Coal and Coke Company. These locations are in West Virginia.

The schools Harmon attended were Lower Point Mountain, Upper Point Mountain, the Mud Lick school in Randolph County, and the Valley Head school. In the spring and early summer of 1903 he attended a school at Webster Springs taught by Professor Fielden Tenny and Gaines Chapman. At that time he held the championship with boxing gloves over the other boys of the town. For six months in 1903 Harmon attended the Tri-State Business College in Cumberland, Maryland.

Late in 1903 he went to Washington, D. C., and there for three months he worked for the Washington Railway and Electric Company, as a streetcar operator. Then he worked at the Sherman Hotel on New Jersey Avenue and C Street, N.W., until July 1, 1905.

On June 2, 1909, Harmon married Pearl Frances Duckett of Davidsonville, Maryland. To them were born three children, the first being Ray Francis, born June 2, 1912, on the third anniversary of their wedding. The other children are Marvin Alvin, born July 31, 1914, and Peggy Virginia, born July 29, 1924. Since 1913 Harmon has made his home at 3927 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. All of the family are members of the Petworth Methodist Church in Washington.

Harmon considers the 36 years he spent in the Washington Fire Department as his principal work. He entered the department as a private on July 1, 1905; in 1908 he became the fourth man in charge; in 1912, sergeant; 1919, lieutenant; 1928, captain; 1929, acting-battalion chief; 1938, battalion chief in charge of the first battalion. During the years he was battalion chief his name appeared in the **Congressional Directory** and in the **Official Register of the United States**.

His schedule of service was as follows: Engine Co. no. 10, 2 years; Hook and Ladder Co. no. 6, 1 year; Engine Co. no. 22, 4 years; Engine Co. no. 21, 2 years; Engine Co. no. 26, 2 years;



AIR RAID WARDEN SERVICE



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING SCHOOL

BE IT KNOWN THAT

H. A. Chapman

HAVING SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED COURSES B AND C, AS REQUIRED
FOR AIR RAID WARDENS, IS QUALIFIED TO INSTRUCT IN THESE SUBJECTS
WHICH INCLUDE:

AERIAL ATTACK
AIR RAID WARDEN'S DUTIES
GAS DEFENSE

GENERAL SUBJECTS
INCENDIARY DEFENSE
HIGH EXPLOSIVE BOMBS

GIVEN AT WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THIS ____ DAY OF ____
ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-TWO.

RECORDED _____

J. P. McNeill
J. P. McNeill
CAPTAIN COMMANDER

Robert H. [Signature]
ROBERT H. [Signature]
BATTALION CHIEF

Harmon A. Chapman, 1930, and his certificate given and recorded January 31, 1942.

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

Engine Co. no. 6, 2 years; Engine Co. no. 22, 1 year; Hook and Ladder Co. no. 4, 10 years; Engine Co. no. 18, 9 years; Engine Co. no. 12, headquarters of the first battalion, 3 years.

From 1928 to 1929 Harmon was president of the City Fire Fighters Association of Washington. The association was working for an increase in pay. Harmon asked the Board of Trade to let him give them a talk relative to the fire department and firemen, hoping that they would favor the increase. He was granted 20 minutes. George S. Watson, the Chief Engineer, had direct supervision of the fire department, and he was present on the occasion. In his talk Harmon took up practical means of fire prevention, proper procedure in case of fire, the annual loss in life and property because of fire, and finally he explained that the best men were needed in that department and with existing rates of pay they could not be secured. After the talk the Board of Trade passed a resolution favoring the increase of pay for firemen.

Thereafter the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department detailed Harmon to repeat his talk before other civic organizations. The Chief Engineer made arrangements as to dates of his appearances. A total of 26 civic organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, passed resolutions asking Congress to grant the increase in pay, which Congress did by establishing the present rates. In Washington, under similar arrangements, Harmon appeared before the junior high schools and senior high schools, public and parochial. There he explained the importance of fire prevention, the things that should be done, and the things one should refrain from doing, when a house is on fire.

Below is reprinted from **The Petworth Citizen** an extract from a talk Harmon gave on March 18, 1930, before the Petworth Citizens' Association of Washington, while demonstrating the proper method of sending in a fire alarm, either by an old style fire alarm box, or by a new fire alarm box:

The first thought of a fireman is to save life and the second to save property. When the gong sounds in the firehouse and every man rushes to his post of duty and those big engines, that almost seem human, roar and groan under their heavy load as they wind their way through traffic in the street—if you could

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

read the thoughts of the men riding on them you would find the uppermost thought is to save life.

Firemen never know what will be expected of them until they arrive at the fire. Someone may be hanging at a window almost ready to drop to sure death; a mother may be crying for someone to save her child; maybe some man may be frantically pleading for his wife who is about to be lost by the ravage of fire.

It is just as important to teach school children to save their lives and the lives of their loved ones as it is to teach them to provide a living for themselves and families. We believe if the work which we are trying to perform this evening will be the means of saving one life we will be well paid for the time spent and will have done a work as good as if we had, at great risk and punishment, entered some burning structure and rescued some unfortunate one trapped therein.

The Government has gone to a great deal of expense to provide fire alarm boxes, fire apparatus, and firemen to man the apparatus. Much time is spent in training the men to use the proper method of combating fire and saving life, yet neither time nor money is being spent to educate the public and the taxpayer as to how to obtain the services of the men and apparatus. It is surprising to know how many people have grown up in the city where they pass a fire alarm box every day and would not know how to turn in an alarm if the lives of their loved ones were at stake. Think of a young man at mature age, the life of his father, his mother or his little child about to be snuffed out by heat and smoke and he does not know how to call for help from one of those little red boxes.

Do you know that about 75 per cent of the adult people of our city do not know how to properly call for the services of our Fire Department? This is a condition that should not go on. Teach the school child of today and you will have taught the adult of tomorrow. Perhaps you never had occasion to turn

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

in an alarm of fire. Perhaps you never will. God bless you if you never need to. But I am telling you that before the dawn of another day it may be your duty to call the fire department to protect the life of the one you love best. Do you know how to perform that duty? Let me show you.

This (illustrating) is the new type of fire alarm box which is being installed in the city. We have about 150 boxes of this style which will eventually replace the old style boxes. The first cost of this box is \$136.50. The appropriation for the past year allowed 90 new boxes. Fifty were used for replacing the old style boxes and 40 used for new locations. Catch this handle (illustrating) and pull to you. This little door opens. No glass to break in this style box. Now you see this white porcelain hook. Put your finger on it, pull down and let it go. The box is now transmitting your signal for assistance to fire alarm headquarters. You hear that little bell striking. It is striking off the number of the box, 7241. You see the number on the front of the box. I will open the inside door and let you see how it looks transmitting your signal. In about one minute you should hear the engines coming to your assistance. If the fire is in sight of the box you may now return to the fire and do anything you can. But if the firemen can not see the fire from the box, by all means remain at the box or get someone to stay there for you until the firemen arrive so they can be directed to the fire without loss of time.

Here (illustrating) is the old style box and it comprises the majority of boxes we have in service at the present time. To operate this box you must first break the glass and turn the key like this (illustrating) which opens the door. Now you see the hook. Do you see the large letters which say "pull down once and let go?" But let me say, folks, if your home is afire, if your lifetime savings are rapidly being consumed by fire, you do not have time to read signs or messages. Pull the hook down and let it go. Do not

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

touch it any more. To do so will interfere with the box sending in the correct number. Do not close the door. To do so will interfere with the box striking its number. Again you hear the little bell striking off the number of this box, which is 527. Four rounds of 527 will be struck off, the first round going direct to Fire Alarm Headquarters. Then by the use of a relay, three rounds go direct to the fire stations. As soon as one round is received in the firehouse the companies due to respond will do so immediately. Your fire department has demonstrated that a company can leave quarters within six seconds after the receipt of the alarm.

You may want to turn in an alarm for this box and find yourself in need of something with which to break the glass. There may be a foot of snow on the ground. Some attempt to break the glass with the palm of the hand or the elbow. That can be done, but is dangerous. Remember, folks, you have your shoes on. Take your shoe off and with either the toe or heel of the shoe you will find it no trouble to break the glass.

The quickest way to get the service of the Fire Department is by telephone when properly used. Call National 0020, and you will get a direct line to the fire alarm operator. When he answers you, remember to keep cool and give the location of the fire in a plain, distinct voice, and always designate what section of the city. Many times the call comes over the fire line and the excited voice says, "My house is on fire, send the Fire Department!" and down goes the receiver. Or they will say, "The house next door to me is afire," and our operator will try to hold them and will say, "Give me the number of your house," and the reply comes back, "532 Sixth Street," and down goes the receiver. You see, we have four such locations. Always say, "532 Sixth Street NW.," or whatever section it may be. If it is a name street, give the name in a clear, distinct voice and you might say what streets it is between or give some definite mark of location.

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

Never hang up your receiver until the operator is through with you.

Do you know where the nearest fire alarm box is to your home or business establishment? If you do not, then you should find out so you will not lose any time getting the alarm in if needed. I want to tell you what happened recently in the southeast. A woodshed was afire, the owner ran three blocks in that direction (indicating) when the nearest box was one block in this direction (indicating in the opposite). The time it took to run two blocks was lost. The fire apparatus was called to a point three blocks from the fire, so that the time it takes an engine to run two blocks was lost also. In the first stage of a fire, seconds are precious little things. On this occasion the time lost might have cost a life or lives and many dollars in property damage.

The idea of this demonstration tonight is that if I can convince you that such a demonstration should be given in the schools and the children taught how to turn in an alarm of fire, the Petworth Citizens' Association will take appropriate action to have this become a part of the children's education.

I am of the opinion that a fireman in uniform and selected by the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department should visit every school once each year and with a portable fire alarm box give a demonstration to the children assembled as to how to operate the box, and, at the same time, give a 10 or 15 minute talk on fire prevention and ask such questions as: "Where is the nearest fire alarm box to your home?" "How would you enter a room charged with smoke?" "How would you make an improvised rope of bed clothing and how could you lower yourself with it from a window?"

Remember the old axiom, "Little pitchers have big ears." Persons working with children realize that a child of school age is a most inquisitive person and even though school lessons are not retained readily, many other facts are. The value of spending some

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

time with children is best illustrated by what happened in a New York City school rather recently. In addition to being trained to recognize the fire drill signal the pupils were taught to respond to an emergency whistle signal blown by certain pupils. An explosion in a home near the school shattered most of the windows and made the fire alarm system of the school inoperative. Those designated to blow the hand whistle rushed to their post of duty and with all their might blew the whistle. Even though some children and teachers were bleeding from cuts made by flying glass and even though no one knew what had happened, the children marched out in such orderly fashion that a panic was avoided and no casualties occurred.

The most terrible of all fires is that in the school imperiling as it does the lives of those dearest to us all.

Some may say that if we teach children how to turn in an alarm we will have an increased number of false alarms. I claim that this would have a tendency to decrease the false alarms. Once in awhile we get a false alarm from children, pulled, no doubt, purely on account of mischievousness. I recommend that you talk to the children; tell them how firemen have been killed while responding to false alarms of fire; remind them that if they pull a false alarm they may be the means of costing some poor man his life; point out how they may cause some other children to be robbed of their papa and home; remind them of the fact that they will be sent to jail for turning in a false alarm, and that if they report anyone else who may have turned in a false alarm, there is a \$50 reward for them. Tell the children of the Boy Scouts who teach their members to do a good deed every day. Point out that no better deed can be done by any boy or girl than to stop a false alarm. Should a child still insist on turning in a false alarm, it will be entirely out of criminal intent, and the child so inclined can very easily learn how to operate fire boxes without any instruction in school.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Edward S. White,

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

chairman of the Committee on Fire and Police Protection, was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, after witnessing the demonstration given by Captain Chapman on the proper way to ring in an alarm, demonstrated with a portable fire alarm box assembled for the purpose, and hearing his remarks on the proper things to do in case of fire, when minutes may mean the saving of lives, your Committee on Fire and Police Protection wish to submit the following resolution:

Now, therefore be it resolved, That The Petworth Citizens' Association at its regular meeting assembled this eighteenth day of March, 1930, in the interest of fire protection, hereby request that the proper authorities arrange to have a demonstration of the proper way to ring in an alarm, to be given at least once a year in each public school in the District of Columbia at an assembly held for the purpose; said demonstration to be given by a fireman in uniform with a portable fire alarm box assembled for the purpose, and a short instruction on the prevention of fire and the proper things to do in case of fire.

Be it further resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the District Commissioners, the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, the Board of Education, and the Federation of Citizens' Associations.

It was largely through Harmon's efforts, while he was president of the City Fire Fighters Association of Washington, that a section of ground in Cedar Hill Memorial Park was set aside and dedicated as a burial place for city firemen. This cemetery is the best kept and the most beautiful in Washington. The section is known as the "Firemen's Section."

The Municipal All Stars of New York City invited the softball team of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia to play them a game of softball on July 28, 1939, in Madison Square Garden. Private George M. Burdine was manager of the District of Columbia team. The Chief Engineer wanted an officer to accompany the team and be in charge of it. Harmon was asked to act in this capacity. Hitherto no men's

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

softball game had been played in the Garden. At this game, Hon. Paul J. Kern, President of the Civil Service Commission of New York City, as a courtesy to the visitors, gave Harmon the honor of throwing into Madison Square Garden the first ball to a men's softball team.

Three times in Washington, Harmon was seriously injured while directing men on the fire grounds. He worked at two fires in the United States Capitol Building, at two fires in the United States Treasury Building, and at one fire in the White House. At the Union Station he had charge of the Fire Department detail for the reception of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of England, on the morning of June 8, 1939.

Harmon made a few rescues that attracted popular notice, the last being on November 22, 1940. On the following day the **Washington Times and Herald** carried a picture, taken at No. 12 Engine House, bearing the title, "Firemen Congratulate Their Heroic Boss." Explaining the picture was the following article:

CHILD RESCUED FROM FLAMES BY FIRE CHIEF

Fighting his way through roaring flames and acrid smoke, Battalion Chief Harmon Chapman last night rescued a five-year-old child from the third floor of a burning home in the 800 block Florida Avenue N.W.

The child, Jean Beasley, was reported dying in Children's Hospital, where Chief Chapman took her after the rescue.

Chief Chapman was standing in front of the building when the child's mother, Mrs. Helen Beasley, rushed up to him screaming: "My baby's trapped in a room on the third floor."

Ordering a ladder swung to the third floor, Chapman himself went into the home and fought through smoke and flames to reach the third floor.

He stumbled through the dark into the burning room and was forced to feel about the room for the child. He finally located her lying on the floor between a bed and a wall.

With the child in his arms, Chief Chapman, par-

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

tially overcome by smoke and temporarily blinded by flames, stumbled into the street to collapse.

He refused treatment, however, and carried the child to the hospital, where doctors said she had little chance to live.

Chief Chapman has twice been injured in fighting fires and has been cited on a number of occasions for heroism.

In 1907 he was commended for calming a threatened panic at the old Academy Theater and several years ago he rescued a small child during a fire in Southeast Washington.

The **Washington Post** carried the following story of the rescue on November 22, 1940:

FIRE CHIEF SAVES CHILD TRAPPED IN BLAZING ROOM

Fire Battalion Chief Harmon Chapman risked suffocation and possible death last night to bring 4-year-old Jean Harlow Beasley, colored, out of a second-floor room at 809 Florida avenue N.W. in which she was trapped by fire.

The child was in a serious condition at Children's Hospital today with third-degree burns.

Other firemen said Chapman was advised not to enter the room because of intense heat and fumes. He plunged in, however, and carried the child out.

Earlier, Policeman H. D. Rogers and W. P. Als of No. 13 precinct hurried to the scene when an oil stove exploded. Three occupants of the second floor escaped, but the girl was trapped.

On his request Harmon was granted retirement on half pay on July 1, 1941. During his period of service in the Fire Department his monthly salary increased from \$60 to \$375.¹¹² He was never reprimanded by a superior officer, but had many commendations. He is the only man in the history of the Washington Fire Department to have served

¹¹² *Official Register of the United States*, 1905, vol. 1, p. 1233; *ibid.*, 1941, p. 246.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

36 years without once reporting late for duty. He agrees with Adam Chapman that it is a virtue to be at work on time.

Beginning December 15, 1941, Harmon took a thirty-day course in Bombs and War Gases conducted by Lieutenant Commander John P. Wetherill of the United States Navy Yard. Harmon qualified as an instructor and in Macfarland junior high school he taught two classes of 40 members each in the same course. His classes consisted of men and women who were air-raid wardens. Harmon was air-raid warden of Zone D in Petworth district.

On March 16, 1942, Harmon was made Fire Prevention Engineer¹¹³ of the Army Transport Service at New Orleans, Louisiana, the office being under the War Department. He has supervision of a fire prevention force of 74 men, whose work is entirely with transport ships. When a ship approaches the port, Harmon receives notice shortly before she comes within view. Fire patrolmen board the ship as soon as she docks. They give her a rigid inspection, and keep a fire patrol aboard as long as she is in port.

The following is a copy of Harmon's "Duties to be Performed":

Assuming responsible supervision over the fire prevention program of private property in close proximity to buildings, wharves, and vessels owned or leased by the government; supervising the inspection at regular intervals of all fire fighting apparatus and equipment on wharves, buildings, army transports and harbor craft while in port; to check and determine if adequate fire fighting apparatus is present and properly placed on vessels with the complete layout of all vessels so as to be able to check all available evidence of sabotage; to determine that the sizes, number, and condition of fire hose, extinguishers, fire doors and other fire fighting equipment are adequate in number and location; to be thoroughly familiar with the hold of each vessel and assist Marine Superintendent in determining the placement of cargo in vessels in such a manner that fire fighting apparatus may be easily

¹¹³ In common parlance terms often used are, "Port Fire Chief" and, "Fire Marshal for the Port."



HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN, 1942.

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

accessible and efficiently utilized; to supervise six or more Inspectors; in the event of a fire on board a vessel, to assume supervisory responsibility in the extinguishing of said fire and initiating measures to prevent the spreading of fire to other property; organizes and instructs classes in the various techniques of fire prevention and fire fighting, both on board vessels, wharves, and in buildings.....90%

Interviews applicants for Fire Guard and Inspector positions, making a selection of those best qualified to fill authorized vacancies; also recommends promotions of personnel on the basis of competent performance of duties5%

Confers with and is consulted by the Superintendent, Army Transport Service, as to the placement of fire hydrants, water mains at the Port, Camp Harahan, and Jackson Barracks, and contemplated locations for the establishment of fire-fighting units and equipment. Is subject to being sent to other Gulf Ports to set up fire-fighting organizations and to hire the required personnel5%

Extent of supervision: Works on own responsibility, following general policies and procedures of A.T.S., receiving little or no detailed or specific instructions as to methods of operations.

Employees supervised: 6 Inspectors (Fire Prevention), SP-7,¹¹⁴ \$2300.

8 Prin. Patrolmen (Fire Guard), CU-7, \$1860.

60 Patrolmen (Fire Guard), CU-5, \$1500.

Immediate supervisor: Asst. Officer in Charge, Operations Division, A.T.S.

Should Harmon at random lift from his office files a couple of reports, typical of his work, they would be similar to the following:

¹¹⁴ SP-7, CU-7, and CU-5 pertain to the annual grade of compensation.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

NEW ORLEANS PORT OF EMBARKATION
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

March 22, 1942

To: Mr. R. J. Jourdan, Associate Marine
Superintendent.

From: Mr. H. A. Chapman, Fire Prevention Engineer.

1. Upon inspection of the ship Evangeline I found that fire-screen doors, four, five, seven and eight are not in good mechanical order and cannot be closed. I reported this condition to the third mate who said he would report it to the master of the vessel.
2. On inspection of the Evangeline again I find that this condition has not been remedied. I recommend that these doors be put in perfect working order before the Evangeline leaves port.
3. My inspection also discloses that the electrical lighting system aboard the Evangeline is faulty. I recommend that a qualified electrical inspector make a thorough inspection of the electrical lighting system aboard the Evangeline before she leaves port.

H. A. CHAPMAN

Fire Prevention Engineer

* * * *

Mar. 24, 1942

NEW ORLEANS PORT OF EMBARKATION,
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. R. J. Jourdan, Associate
Marine Superintendent.

SUBJECT: Recommendation.

1. Inspection of various ships show that on the lower decks, known as Cargo decks, where emergency troop quarters are established, there is no fire protection other than fire extinguishers placed in various sections of their quarters.

2. Should fire originate in these quarters while men are asleep, and the fire not be discovered in time, the chances are that many of the men would suffocate or be burned. If fire once gained headway it would sweep through the bunks with violent destruction.

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

3. It is therefore recommended that an automatic sprinkler system, or a Zonite Fire Detector Alarm system be installed in these quarters. If a Zonite Fire Detector Alarm system be installed, troops would be awakened in sufficient time to combat fire with extinguishers. If an automatic sprinkler system be installed, fire would be immediately extinguished.

H. A. CHAPMAN,
Fire Prevention Engineer.

Within four months after Harmon went to the port, more than fifty fires started on transport ships there, but none caused damage estimated at more than \$25.00. At the port there are seven miles of water-front wharves, and sometimes as many as 13 transport ships. Harmon considers his present responsibilities the greatest he has ever had.

About 1898 at Monterville, West Virginia, Harmon joined the Coming Men of America. In May 1904 he joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, becoming a member of Golden Lodge No. 21 in Washington.

Harmon became a Mason in 1912, his membership being in Joppa Lodge No. 35 in Washington. He is a member of the Circle Club of Washington, which membership entitles him to the courtesies of clubs affiliated with the National League of Masonic Clubs. His membership dates from April 21, 1915. On September 17, 1941, he became a member of Joppa Lodge, Chapter No. 27, Order of the Eastern Star, of which chapter Pearl Chapman has been a member since October 17, 1923.

On February 28, 1918, Harmon became a member of Local, No. 36, International Association of Fire Fighters, which organization is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Harmon, on September 8, 1931, became an honorary member of the Volunteer Fire Department of Mt. Rainier, Maryland. He became an honorary member of Prince George County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association on August 12, 1939.

In March 1925, Harmon organized the Firemen's Retirement Club of the District of Columbia, and for the first two years he was president of the club. The club serves the purpose of investment and insurance and, on a graduated scale, pays to its members a maximum of \$2,000 upon retirement

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

from the Fire Department. Should a member resign, be dismissed, or die in service, he or his estate is entitled to the return of the money paid to the club by the member, and no more.

Like most men of our country, Harmon and his sons have been effected by our nation's early policy of defense on Burma Road in Asia, and on the Rhine frontier in Europe. On the afternoon and evening of October 16, 1940, Harmon served as registrar of selectees for military service, the place being the Macfarland junior high school in Washington.

Tobacco, Harmon has never used in any form; and among his imperfections one must omit drinking, for he has never indulged in drinking beer or intoxicating liquors. A friend he has been to many of his relatives and their acquaintances, who have tried to weather the perils of that transitional period between employment in the States, and in Washington.

As already stated, Harmon and Pearl have three children. Ray received the B. S. degree in mechanical engineering in the University of Maryland in 1935. After spending a year as project engineer with PWA, he entered the United States Army for a year's training under the Thomason Act of August 30, 1935.¹¹⁵ He was later a turbine engineer for the Moore Turbine Company, a subsidiary of the Worthington Pump Company. On July 27, 1942, he became a captain in the corps of engineers in the United States Army. Ray and Erna Reidel were married on September 5, 1942.

In McKinley high school in Washington, Marvin was captain of the track team, and a member of the National Honorary Scholastic Society. In 1932 he entered the College of Engineering of the University of Michigan where he was elected president of the Freshmen Engineers, and of Triangles, honorary engineering society. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi, social fraternity. In 1935 he transferred to the University of Alabama to study industrial management.

At the University of Michigan, Marvin won the freshman award in the high jump by clearing a height of 6 feet. At the University of Alabama, by increasing the height 4 inches, he

¹¹⁵ The Secretary of War selected second lieutenants for this service. 49 *Statutes*, p. 1028.



CHILDREN OF HARMON AND PEARL CHAPMAN, 1926. Left to right, Marvin, Peggy, and Ray.

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

became a letterman, and placed second in the Southeastern Conference meet.

From 1936-41 Marvin was employed by the United States Treasury Department. He is now a regional administrative officer in the seventh region of the War Production Board, comprising the States of Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. On December 2, 1939, he married Evelyn Byrd Traxler and their home is at 321 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri.

In McKinley high school Peggy displayed exceptional aptitude in home economics, especially in dress design and decoration. Among the class members of 1942, she was selected as the most capable student in home economics. This work she plans to continue in college.

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

HARMON ALVIN CHAPMAN

NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

(Continued on Page 288)

CHAPTER XX

CONCLUSION

I have considered it more important to give the reader a correct summary of events and evidence than to present my conclusion. It may be expected, however, that I should pass some judgment upon the tendency and significance of those events which it has been my duty to record.

William O. Chapman is the first of his family definitely identified by this study. In 1835 he lived on Elk River, probably close to the present limits of Clay County. We do not know when he or his forebears came to what is now West Virginia. Nor do we know from what part of the United States the early Chapmans came. On the upper Atlantic seaboard in 1790 there were about 300 Chapmans who were heads of families. We may assume that William O. was related to some of them. Just what relationship, if any, the Chapmans of central West Virginia had with the Ohio Company of Associates, we do not know.

The maternal ancestors of William Francis Marion Chapman are first observed in the dim light of the period of the Revolutionary War. The houses of Friend and Wilson were united by a marriage tie. The first man of our attempted identification appears to have been Captain Joseph Friend, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, the same being the Joseph Friend who with Samuel Hanaway about 1785 secured a tract of 216 acres embracing the site of the Salt Sulphur Spring in what is now Webster Springs.

The story of the boyhood of William Francis Marion Chapman, of his marriage to Nancy Hamrick Gregory, of their means of earning a living for a family, of the blight of the Civil War, and of the schools and churches of the post-war period parallels a chapter in the social history of central West Virginia. The Chapman family were so much like their neighbors that to know the course they followed, is to be familiar with the social history of their period. The descendants of Billy and Nancy Chapman traveled with the easy means of

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

transportation, showed a touch of the temper of Rebecca Sands, and applied themselves with diligence to their work. Despite the fact that their homes were not always havens of harmony, they maintained them with considerable consistency. The descendants were much like their contemporaries.

The reader will note that in the era of the Civil War more than one version of the same general story came down to us. Perhaps the best explanation is the following given by Gaines Chapman: "One version is as good and interesting as another and possibly as nearly correct. One proof that the Gospel is based on truth is the fact that no two of the four writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell the story of what Jesus did and said, exactly alike. If it had been plotted the story would have been told exactly alike by each of the writers. So it is with tradition. Two or more persons do not remember the facts exactly alike and yet all may be correct in substance."

Contacts Billy Chapman and his descendants made with the school system of Webster County show the system in various stages of development. Consider Billy's effort to educate his children. Nancy was a devout Christian, an efficient co-worker and a good mother in many ways, but she could not teach the children to read and write. By his labor and on his own time Billy helped erect two log schoolhouses. To say nothing of short terms of school, poor facilities, and the boarding of teachers free part of the time, there yet existed the barbaric custom of teachers savagely beating children whom they were paid to help. Billy, himself, was not an amateur at swinging the whip, but shortly before he left Gauley Mountain he saw the schoolhouse he had helped to build become such a den of terror that he did not send his children there all of the term.

Billy in 1866 taught a subscription school. His children who became teachers were Currence, Columbia, Gaines (who also was in Webster County, superintendent of schools), George, Grant, Charles, and Emma.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was the established church on Point Mountain in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Billy and Nancy were members of it. Most, if not all, of the thirteen children became members of that church in their youth. Its influence permeated their lives, including

CONCLUSION

those who in later years associated themselves with other denominations. Currence, Gaines, and Charles joined the Baptist Church; Sarah joined the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; and Columbia, George and Emma found in the Christian Science Church—the only prominent denomination founded by a woman—strength for the body and peace for the soul.

The Bible, from which pages of the family record are reproduced in this study, is in the possession of Mrs. Olive Leo Capper, daughter of Currence. Columbia has the hymnbook that William G. Gregory gave to his daughter, Nancy. It is called "**Select Melodies**," has 384 pages, and was entered according to an act of Congress in 1851 by William Hunter in the clerk's office of the district court of the western district of Pennsylvania. John has the album Nancy gave him in her will.

In the days of Billy Chapman, rugged hills and poor roads contributed to provincialism in Webster County. Early marriages among families, well known to each other, was the rule. Ten of Billy's thirteen children found a partner in marriage within a day's journey on horseback from the farm on Point Mountain, and established their homes within an equal radius. Two of the children, Columbia and Gaines, remained at home until they were 21 years old. Mary and Columbia are the only children who, once having left Point Mountain, returned there to live again.

Of the thirteen children, seven went to Nebraska to take homesteads, and the families of five secured them. Representing the five families were Grant, John, Gaines, Columbia, and Emma. They left the homesteads shortly after titles were established. Adam spent 35 years and Harmon 36 years in the service of the Federal government in Washington, D. C.

The office of justice of the peace is the one most common in the history of the family. Billy Chapman held the office nearly a fourth of his life. Also among the "squires" are Currence, George, Grant, and John. Billy joined no lodge. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons were the orders most commonly joined by his sons.

William Given Gregory was a Republican. Billy and Nancy

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Chapman adhered to the same party, but Gaines and John always have been Democrats. Some of the other children have not been steadfast in the political faith of their fathers.

Mahala, oldest of the thirteen children, and now in her eighty-fifth year, contributed much in the preparation of this story. Her memory, remarkably clear, holds much of the Chapman history of a period growing faint and obscure, soon to be past finding out. At the end of a long questionnaire she wrote: "It is difficult to note all the important events of a man's life, and the important events in the lives of his ancestors and of his descendants where there were no registers, and few diaries and records kept."

Again she wrote: "You have run the race of two generations. The five daughters and eight sons of Billy and Nancy Chapman were all respectable citizens. The parents were religious and strictly law-abiding. They taught the children to remember the Sabbath day, to attend church and Sunday School. Thus, the children were taught to do right and to be truthful. The girls were all married without a stain upon their credit. If all parents would rear children as strict and honorable as Billy and Nancy Chapman did theirs, this country would be far better.

"The parents and four of the children are dead. The nine children living are scattered from ocean to ocean, from Virginia to California. Some of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren are seeing action in war."

Descendants of Billy and Nancy Chapman living number more than 365 persons.¹¹⁶ The grandchildren of Billy and Nancy were more than 90 in number, and more than 70 are living. The oldest is Elahu Harrow Mace, born September 10, 1878; the youngest, Ward Welt Chapman, born December 11, 1926. Both are living. More than 165 great-grandchildren of Billy and Nancy are living. True to the general trend in the nation, the largest families are rural, and were not reared in cities like Washington, D. C., or Los Angeles. Those having the most descendants living are Mary, Currence, Mahala, and John in the order given.

There is a tendency for peoples everywhere in the world

¹¹⁶ Statistics in this paragraph are slightly on the conservative side of the exact figures.

Inahala J. Gregory
Linn., Gilmer County,
West Virginia.

Mary A. Gray
248 Monroe - Pl.
Monrovia, California -

Columbia Hill, Cogar
Rural and

Route 1 Box 36 California

Gaines Chapman

895 S. W. Ave., Springfield, Mass.

G. H. Chapman

Kissimmee

Florida

J. R. Chapman

R-1 French Creek W. Va.

Adam L. Chapman
3134 Columbia Pike,
Arlington, Va.

Emma B. Cogar
1327 Columbia Rd., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Harman A. Chapman.

3927 - 7th St. N. W.,

Washington, D.C.

Addresses of the nine living children, written by themselves. The author requested the signatures on July 30, 1941. Harmon affixed the ninth signature on August 26.

CONCLUSION

to give smiling approval to the fecundity of their own families. Scarcely was there a hut on the waters of the upper Elk when Malthus explained that the power of population is infinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man.¹¹⁷ He pointed out that among certain foreign peoples there tends to be standing room only; and that everywhere population pressure must be relieved, if not by "moral restraint," then by "vice and misery," including war. The general increase of the world's population—and the descendants of Billy Chapman is a case study in minute particular—created in part the necessity for lebensraum among the present belligerent nations, being principally of the white race and of the Christian faith.

Younger members of the Chapman family may find in this study inspiration to bear their perennial problems with less grievance. If they achieve progress without struggle and serious application, it will be something new under the sun for the Chapman family. Adam and Harmon advise them to "be at work on time."

The tendency among the Chapmans has been to migrate from Webster County. No less than 85 per cent of the grandchildren, and an equal per cent of the great-grandchildren of Billy and Nancy Chapman have at sometime lived in Webster County, or close to its borders. Some have only a childhood recollection of the county, and few have more than a hazy and uncertain conception of the history of the Chapmans there. If this study gives them and their posterity a clearer understanding and a fuller appreciation of the social history of central West Virginia, I shall have accomplished at least part of my twofold purpose. I have with considerable time and some labor written this story of the Chapmans, but they have with infinitely more time and labor lived it mostly in the region of Webster County, of hallowed memory.

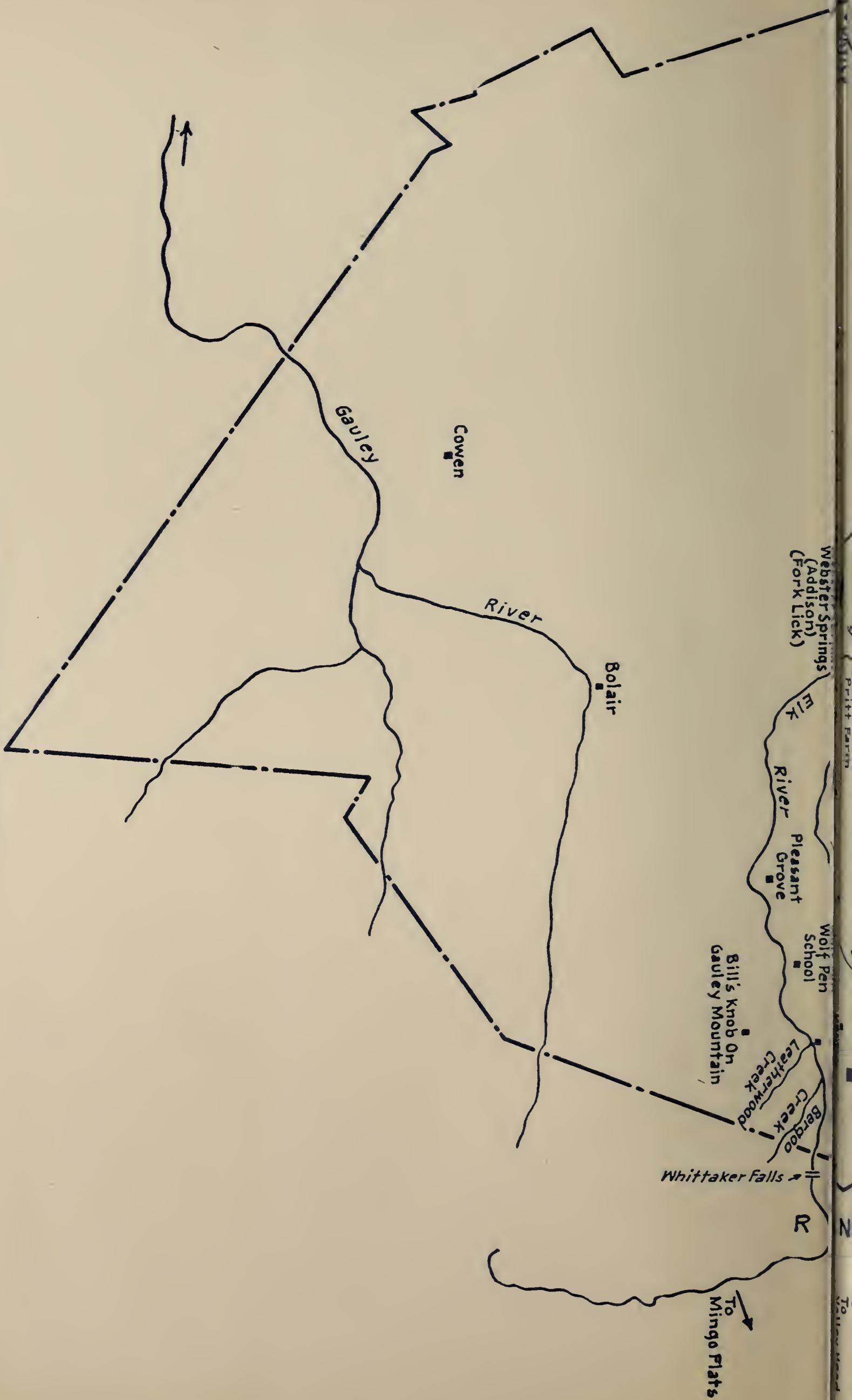
¹¹⁷ T. R. Malthus, *An Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798).

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
NOTATIONS

Webster County, central West Virginia.



NORTH

UPSHUR
COUNTY

COUNTY

COUNTY

BRAXTON

To
Clay County

Centralia

Right Fork Holly River

Elk
River

Diana

Jumbo

Desert Fork School

Hacker Valley

Mt Zion
Church

Ware Home

Creek

Big

Grassy
Pritt Farm

Back Fork

Skelt

Chapman Farm On
Point Mountain
(Moore Farm)

Of Elk River

Sugar Creek

To
Lee Bell

To
Beverly

To
Yellow Head

